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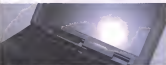
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## Beverage on the table

One of the main goals assigned to computers has been to reduce work and allow us to do things more quickly and efficiently. All too often, this doesn't happen.

Doing something on a computer often takes longer than doing things the old way. Technology has many unintended consequences. I have been making a very interesting book that looks at why so many technologies—including computers and so-called ergonomics—end up backfiring on us. In *Why Things Ain't Right*, Technology and the Design of Unintended Consequences (published by Basic), author Edward Tufte calls this phenomenon "reverse effect"—the unintended, ironic consequences of the mechanical, biological and mental limits of humanity that can society's a society-enabled vice.

## Spine tingling experience

In computers, former desk work arrangements (the body) often get promoted to make work efficient and painless, unconsciously creating other work-related incidents, incidents and mistakes.

He writes "Office workers turn out to be a surprisingly high risk for back pain, even if they lift nothing heavier than the solid mass of paper. There are 40 million work back pain cases among office workers that cause an average of \$100 million in lost time. The hidden risk of sitting may be less healthy than the floor level living that previous once prevailed in data and the Middle East (sitting is a chair), as opposed to standing or walking past dangerous terrain on the spine. When makes the chair-based life so hazardous—like the origin of other chronic conditions—is choice. Part of the answer is cognitive. A person who sits all day and gets no other muscle exercise is more likely to suffer back muscle discomfort when not doing something strenuous, the weekend warrior syndrome."

This causality matches my own experience. I work at the office four days a week and spend one day making home day home. I find I don't get interrupted by all the events of the office. That down side of staying home is that I often sit on the couch in the chair and my back gets very sore. At that office I sit up and fold down of the, sitting in people in other offices, going to meetings, going to the bank, and the house. I can play through every week, but the cost is a sore back. My solution is to go up and move every half hour to an hour, and to do physical exercise.

## Beverage sampler

The book got me thinking of other examples I have seen recently of this beverage effect. Some recent examples that I think of are:

- Many people have had the experience of writing out to do something, maybe like make a birthday card for a friend or relative, and then computer only to find themselves struggling with it hours later. Would it not have been simpler just to go and buy a card from the racks of existing cards on

## Beverage on the table?

• The World Wide Web was supposed to make access to information instantaneous and easy for university and research professionals. It was such a great concept that huge numbers of people took to the wires. Now it is increasingly difficult to find important things because of the sheer volume of information. Doing a search on AltaVista results in thousands of results being returned while making it very long to wade through. On top of this search results swamped the volume of Internet users has grown to such a level that there are more connections and university people are setting up their own private network, Internet 2.

• Computers are wonderful organizing tools that, more often than I like, I find myself in a situation of having to input data that doesn't quite fit into a database. There have been word processors and spreadsheets to mix the data. I also see a way to automate the changes by writing macros. The problem is that writing up the macros for this one-time data manipulation often takes the amount of time it would take to do the job by cutting and pasting manually.

• Printing companies are seeking to install dot-matrix technology to speed printing, improve quality and eliminate costs in the printing process. Installing this new equipment costs hundreds of thousands and even millions of dollars, which must be amortized. They set up new electronic publishing divisions as cost centers that are supposed to pay for themselves, and even make money. This adds a significant new layer of cost in publishers and printers, and then demands to go back in doing things the old way, because the mechanical costs involved of the past has long been paid for by the printers and is now the less cost option.

Reading *Why Things Ain't Right* often brought a way made of recognition to me. One because of the ironic outcomes of many of the technologies. However, the book is not inherently fatalistic. The author is trying to come to terms with the failures of technology and develop strategies to anticipate and perhaps avoid them inadvertently consequences. It is good to move to the forefront that things are often better. Definitely worth a read if you are looking at the big picture of technology and its impact on where we are going.

## Beverage personal

I would be interested in other beverage effects you have come across. Email them to [ed@glitch.com](mailto:ed@glitch.com) or fax them to 404-598-4000.

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**Don't exceed a Pentium for the price**

I was pleased to see a price on the Intel Step in the Computer Paper (February 1997). I have an IBM PC 286 with 344KB of memory and DOS 3.3.

But I was not happy with the disappointing criticism of the program in the article. You do not seem to appreciate the dedication the company has to extend the usefulness of older machines and operating systems.

Considering the limited demand of this product, \$40 is cheap compared to the cost of

a new PC to run Windows 95 or a new Macintosh.

J. Harding, Littleton, Colo.

**A leading brand in Quebec**

I enjoy reading *PC* and appreciate its Canadian perspective. I was anxious to see this year's review of my possession software since I am particularly interested in this area (as an individual Quebec magazine).

I must tell you however that, although the article in the February 1997 issue did pro-

vide useful information to a large number of products, I was somewhat disappointed that the second year is a sure that the reviews were put out very deep, further they did not even mention the Quebec problems at the various packages.

Now it's quite understandable that in the rest of Canada few people would be interested in the top Quebec magazine this month. I'm curious. How may, but for exactly, though that in March, April every year these reviews having completed and checked their final list.

where like their competitors throughout Canada, have the distinct obligation to use all our own against all different boxes, releases, prices and different users and prepare their 1997/98 list relative to all these boxes. You can not be subsequently affected by any of our effective software packages—one that, especially for the Quebec users, adds the right approach, provides the right features and handles enough bugs and errors.

William Mac, via email

**Where on Apple**

In Letters February 97 I am sympathetic with Clay Gates position that "the majority has always right, but it's always popular." There's no doubt that if you buy on the Macintosh you'll have an advantage of hardware or software. However you'll have another choice if you don't Windows. It's not only well and good. The one thing about a computer industry with Apple, IBM, Commodore AND the MS-DOS clones—it had diversity and innovation. It lost and Microsoft lost even personal computing you'll have one choice and Bill Gates will make it for you. I don't mind fully (you think he could run it in his company).

So, if you don't mind I want to be coming drop from the Mac and yes. But a PC/DOS like the latest volume-produced personal computer made old Power Computing and tell them you'd like to buy a 225 MHz PPC note Mac clone. I'm sure they'd be happy to oblige.

Garry Howard, via email

**Long live Mac clones**

The decision by Apple CEO Gilbert Amelio to buy Macintosh business line is the last nail in Apple's coffin.

A look back at the continuous operating system projects the reason I know Microsoft's price and 2000 million in revenue units to switch over from DOS. But spend small over and believe developing OS/2 he it to increase a more OS—and IBM has pulled plans to put it to its own process. The PowerPC Apple has spent years and hundreds of millions of dollars trying to upgrade System 7 only to give up and buy OS/2.

So Apple now has an unhelpful and unneeded OS that history has shown will take at least a year and cost thousands of dollars to develop at a time when OS/2 offers a cheap, tested, stable, fast, accepted alternative that will be adopted by most clone makers but not Apple. By the time Apple offers its own OS, most users will have left and will buy a clone to get it.

Really the Macintosh market will be lost by manufacturers who understand the market and will use it to bring in the new products. Apple is dead. Long live the clones.

Jon Fink, via email

**Where the Superbook?**

I enjoy reading your paper every month. However, I was disappointed to see that you did not review the NEC Superbook and printer as part of your review of budget printers in the March '97 issue. The NEC 980 is a nice 600 dpi printer with four pages of eight pages per minute. It has a compact design with a number of other features, like software and an overnight replacement warranty. It sells for approximately \$440. I have been waiting for a few months without any complete reviews.

Samuel Thompson, Sunny, BC

OT applies. As a general rule, we write all major manufacturers to submit products for review.

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#### ISDN identification offered

ISDN clarification arrived in a relatively new concept for most British Columbians. It believes that the media and ISPs have a responsibility to make sure the public is properly informed about the various and their options. The following comments were published and referred to the private reader about ISDN in the February "Letter from the Editor."

Our customers minimize their costs with the right equipment and by managing their usage. ISDN connects within 1,500 milliseconds (0.5 seconds) and disconnects when there is no activity so there is little need for a constant connection. The benefit of switching usage to activity far outweighs the cost of a constant connection, even for customers using ISDN to connect their own web site or for Internet access. In fact, people with continuous connections should expect their monthly ISDN fee charges to increase significantly when BC Tel begins charging for business usage as they now do on residential ISDN lines.

Learning to a router and managing your Internet access will dramatically reduce monthly usage. The years will be below the 100 or 200 hours a month is used in your business case. It is a common mistake to over estimate ISDN usage by comparing a volume of analog access to a volume of ISDN access.

Building ISDN aware thinking digital devices require different than analog. ISDN throughput reaches 128Kbps while data requirements demand it and bandwidth if there is no activity. We now clients on and off the network as quickly as possible using a 30 second "no-activity" time-out." Use on-up of the network time-outs is unnecessarily long. Why spend five to seven minutes waiting or interrupting Web page with your use up, when you can make it off like and instantly reconnect when you want to start up? You save on-line time as there is no need to keep an open connection for convenience. Also,

you do not use up time if disturbed and forget to close your connections.

A typical business customer uses 3.3 hours of 64Kbps access a day (3.3 hours of 128Kbps access) with 175 logins and averages 3.3 minutes per login while a workstation can be on line time. How wide may spread the cost amount of time using the Internet but their use neither should decrease. However, many hours spent playing online games or viewing highly interactive Web sites can potentially eat up time and home-based customers should be

aware of this.

Your ISDN connection should be the times faster than 28 K analog access. When choosing an ISP provide it is important to confirm you are not losing speed if your service is handled with their other Internet service. Achieving 128Kbps access reduces your time online and eliminates lost productivity common with analog connections.

A high-quality router now costs \$1,000 instead of the \$1,500 you quoted. This is still \$500 more than an ISDN modem, but we re-

commended a router because it prevents other usage and enforces 4:1 compression for business speeds 34 times faster than 28.8 modems. A good router is easy to set up and maintain. An ISDN modem connection is not a less expensive long-run alternative. The \$500 additional investment is paid back while it stands and makes continue to fall in price.

As you mentioned, a router allows you to have a fixed IP address, giving you a path to and from the Internet. Our customers ju-

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#### Two much for Money

In our February '98 article "Taking aim at your money," we incorrectly stated the suggested retail price at Microsoft Money as \$59.95. Microsoft says the suggested retail price of the product is actually \$44.95.

#### Wrong ad

We would like to apologize to United for carrying the statement in our March issue. The ad, which was mistakenly placed, was for the November '98 issue, and contained information, pricing and promises that were out of date. We regret any problems this may have caused the company and its potential customers.

#### Ad ran inadvertently

An advertisement for SmartNet was inadvertently published in the March '97 issue. The print and conditions that ad do not apply. Current pricing from SmartNet can be obtained by calling 412-730-0000, or via email at [info@smartnet.com](mailto:info@smartnet.com) (for business) or [web@smartnet.com](mailto:web@smartnet.com) (for individuals), or through the company's Web site, at <http://www.smartnet.com>. We regret any problems this error may have caused the company.

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## B.C. students get access to The Brainium



In an effort to prepare students for the challenges of the next millennium, British Columbia and Multitask Technologies are looking the world of Canadian Model Systems (which is) forth. "This is a new day."

The program has licensed The Postcard— an online interactive science tool aimed at middle and high schools and based on research

revelation. For three years, the deal was announced at Vancouver's Science World by Initiative president Barry Reid and B.C. Premier Glen Clark in late February. The province will pay Initiative \$200 per student, which will allow any public school to request directly with Initiative and receive the capital and operating costs.

"The Institute takes students beyond the walls of the classroom to explore a world of constantly evolving science information, where opportunities for learning is defined and encouraged for teachers and students alike,"

The November 1996 poll results are shown in Table 1.

- the *Science Magazine*, which includes profiles of individuals working in various science fields (students can communicate with those profiled and ask them about their jobs and interests), games, science news, Internet links, and more.



the flag lines, which is an explicit order meaning a cast of utmost vigor—led by a pair of surprisingly masculine female representatives—the message students in our other classes took to be that they should use their science knowledge to help them in their studies.



• **and the Truckers.** Ferry Routes, a head-to-tail only planning and resource area in which service routes are coordinated with each other.

The Internet takes advantage of the Internet's interactive nature by allowing input from teachers and students in shaping the content, according to Inhibitive. An experiment reveals also encourages students to participate in projects online and helps teachers facilitate projects with other teachers and classroom across the country.

Despite the excitement surrounding the launch the press said that "one of the challenges of the new project is equity," and that, currently, very few schools in B.C. can take advantage of all the freedom they're offered. Clark said he would like to see freedom more extended to public schools at all levels across B.C., and in respect to implementation, regarding that in the next couple of months.

According to its owners, The Baskin site is accessible even with relatively slow (1.5-Mbps) modems.

MultiActive plans to offer The Business to students across Canada and, eventually, internationally. The prototype, called Science Ed, was developed by Science World and Simon Fraser University with federal and provincial funds. MultiActive is donating partial proceeds from licensing The Business to the Science World Foundation to promote science education.

Teachers can register the photos on  
online—where relevant

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Good results for IBM with Hayes: 2 for NT + 1 for the other. Of Watson's five 100% Windows NT, one of the others performs programs at the speed in NT, and it's even better. The 100% program is a

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**US Robotics, 3Com announce merger worth \$6.6 billion**

3M Corporation and US Robotics Corp. have announced the intention to merge. The companies say the agreement, announced Feb. 28, is the largest merger in the history of the data-networking industry. The merged company will retain the 3M name and will have more than \$100 billion in annual revenues and more than 13,000 employees in 19 countries, according to a 3M statement.

Based on the closing price of KCM stock on Feb. 23, the deal is valued at \$44.6 billion, subject to several conditions. Including regulatory approvals and approval of both companies' shareholders, the transaction is expected to close this summer. Under the terms of an agreement, each share of US Robotics stock will be exchanged for 1.75 shares of KCM stock.

The merged company will be able to provide "end-to-end LAN/WAN networking solutions," says the company, with products ranging from network interface cards and high-speed modems, through local area network (LAN) cards, to remote access and wide area networks (WAN) solutions.

Eric Bushman, 3M's chairman and chief executive officer, will continue as chairman and chief executive officer of the combined company. After the merger, Gary Cornell, chairman and chief executive officer of US Robotics, will join 3M's board of directors as vice chairman. ■■

Keywords: *parental involvement; child development; family structure; family processes; family functioning*

- 1. **Brasserie**, which contains multiple lights and appliances.
- 2. **Desk and Chair**, which are lights in themselves and can be chosen freely.
- 3. **Library**, in which the program "reads" how lights and appliances are used and then explains the pattern to make it look like someone's house.
- 4. **Waking up on Bang**, which activates the computer of simulated states to produce a House District last, after which it starts itself again.

IBM has also introduced the Agnus II series, a modular alternative to the Agnus I, and I Series clocks on the market.

The Agency's models are based on 'Preston-class' processes and an uncalibrated study from 1990 shows losses of \$1.00 to \$1.200 inclusive members and a software license. —/—

.....

- Key •** Several Microsoft Excel® has introduced two new spreadsheet functions that include high-quality powered dose data required in minimal toxicology and health risk assessments. The CMC 17000 is a 37 inch model with a 14.2 inch diagonal viewing area, a maximum 1,280x1,024 resolution at 60 Hz, and a 32 ms display. The CMC 18000 has a 14 inch model with a 1,280x1,024 resolution at 60 Hz, and a 32 ms display. Both models incorporate powered dose updates required to deliver clear sound and low distortion. Suggested prices were not published and are low.

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**Corel releases 'WoodPerfect Suite for DOS' -** Although Phoxray for Windows software must be bought about \$50, there are millions of PC users who still rely on their operating system running under DOS. Corel Corp. Inc.'s designers, in February 1992, have shipped Corel 'WoodPerfect Suite for DOS', a new version of the best-selling software that includes Corel 'WoodPerfect', Corel 'Quattro Pro' and Corel 'Perspective'.

The new release is in line with Cisco's open-platform approach to business computing solutions, which has made the company a leader in diverse markets, consistently with its 400 and 375

left winging of Wilshire (USX), Mac OS and Java, as well as MILLION and PIONEER in particular. Growth policy of continuing to sell and support several versions of its flagship QuattroMac product, its remarkable team of older PCs has resulted in the same situation.

"Clint has had no ongoing commitment to DCM since, and Clint Woodcock has no DCM in the first and only state for DCM since," according to Woodcock's attorney, Michael Cleveland.

Good! Intel® Perfect Name for OS will be offered on CD-ROM and floppy disks, with the CD-ROM version offering a typical example of a disk image, see <http://www.intel.com/pressroom/press.htm>.

digital data phones, 128 lines and 16,000 digital phones. At work, this package will include Comshare's *ShareDoc*, a program designed to allow users to create minutes of programs, and *ShareNet*, which can switch between programs without having to quit one and load another—a kind of DOS multitasking or multiprogramming. At work, the *ShareNet* software from Autodesk and *ShareMaster* software from Aldus and *ShareIt* from Microsoft and *Share*, respectively. Also included are utilities for connecting file handles to networks, and creating common, shared data

System requirements are a 386 processor or better, 256KB of RAM, DOS 5.0 or higher, 45 MB of hard drive space, VGA or VGA graphics, and a 3.5 in. floppy and CD-ROM drive. The suite is priced at \$595-\$950 (\$950 for upgrade). —B

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The selections reflect the competitive pressure on prices in the computer industry in general, as well as the common pattern of price cuts for models that have been on the market for some time.

AJT Canada recently failed to be the winner and PC found among Canadian consumers. Despite problems AJT has had in the United States, Korean technology company Samsung, which recently increased its interest in AJT, has given AJT the funding necessary to transfer its financial troubles, and this helped guarantee AJT's success in matters of ethical consumption.

1. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 1997; 277: 1001-1005.

And now, for the weather on the table: PolarCast Canada is a free, non-commercial online service that lets you see the forecast, by region. • [www.polarcast.ca](http://www.polarcast.ca)



partnering with The Weather Network, a cable TV and radio service that provides British nationwide weather information in French and English. PowerLine Canada users will now be able to view current temperatures and weather conditions for cities and towns across the country, as well as satellite images and more.

"PointCast Canada is an excellent means of delivering The Weather Network's accurate weather related content to Internet users in Canada," according to David Beutel, vice-president and general manager of The Weather Network Commercial Services. "We look forward to adding additional weather channel content as The Weather Network continues to expand its reach."

Recent air quality concerns in Ontario in particular have caused many people to consider ways to help reduce smog levels, noise and greenhouse gas. Riding and touring plans, and give drivers essential information as well. Over 100,000 Canadians have become members of PolarCar since its launch.

PolarCap Canada Inc. also added The Globe and Mail News Wire service, which transmits news stories to Internet subscribers. Software can be downloaded to use from the PolarCap Canada Web site.



versions of its Mac OS. On January 7 of the MacWorld/Expo in San Francisco, Apple announced its plans to deliver enhanced versions of its operating system to the Mac, not based on a single, universal code base.

\*Apple is committed to delivering no. 1, run-time advanced operating system capabilities and features on a scheduled and timely basis. The approach will help customers (help) gear up the right technological strategies taking place today," according to Mike Markkula, Apple's chief technology officer and vice-president of research and development.

The company has been widely criticized, both by end users and industry analysts, for frequent delays in bringing out the next generation "Copied" version of the Mac OS, while such competitors Microsoft moved ahead with new versions of Windows and Windows NT, luring large numbers of third party developers to create advanced new software applications for the Windows platform, while the Mac software market is rapidly

An electronic copy of MacMillan's contract to The Computer Paper's editors is still-being used as first glance, while the new franchise owner the Mac's ethnic appearance, a number of significant areas of disagreement, and many more capital (see, www.mcmillan.com).

[illegible]

**Mac OS 7.0** is now authorized to begin shipping in Canada on Feb. 24, and is priced at \$429 (the Mac CD version) —**JD**



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# Taking the Java message on the road



Java will play a central role in defining network computing's future, according to computer industry heavyweights. Sun Microsystems, IBM Corp., Microsoft, Compaq, and Hewlett-Packard. That was the message the computer-makers sought to convey

during the Java Initiative World Java '99. The first of three North American events was held Feb. 24, in San Francisco, and was similar to its other locations including Singapore, where TCP\* created the event.

While the purpose of the Java fest was to present a day of seminars about Java to opening laptop owners, delivered a seminar on how Java is going to be the next big thing in computing. A four-division panel comprising Jim Heister, chief executive officer of Netscape, John M. Thompson, senior vice president and software group executive at IBM, and Scott McNealy, chief executive officer of Sun Microsystems, shared the keynote stage.

"The whole Java world is opening up some real opportunities for our industry," noted Thompson. "There is a lot to including much of the value of network computing."

Thompson said he found the guests in the lobby in a living device by network computing, and predicted the market would grow

to \$250 billion by the end of the year 2000.

The theme of the four Java world events, now anywhere encapsulated the central message that the programming language offers a true cross-platform development environment that will streamline software development and save companies big money. The big "if" in this scenario is that cross-platform compatibility will happen only if developers stick closely to the Java application programming interface specifications. To this end, the four also agreed to publish the "100% Pure Java Initiative," a quality-assurance process Sun announced in late 1996 that ensures cross-platform compatibility.

Thompson said 70 percent of the world's Java runs on large databases. By developing

Java-based applications that would run on anything from today's PC to some future pocket communications, "we'd be able to envision that and move it to the same world of the high to create new products and services."

Although the internet has exploded beyond anyone's expectations, in hindsight it's not too surprising, Jim Battistella said. What the internet offers is a communications system that is ubiquitous, affordable and scalable. And with the development of Web browsers like desktop PCs, "more people could use the Internet and use it as a business tool."

But the browser only takes you on the road. Battistella said that's where Java makes the gain.

How—to provide additional functionality.

Battistella taking the expected job at Microsoft and its products, Sun's Java. Initially used to convert developers that Java was ready to place them, with widespread industry support and acceptance. "Every development tool out there—all of them, all of them, all of them—everybody's development environment now targets Java," said Battistella. "That's exciting when you think about it. We're live, we finished days into this thing [Java] and now every development tool you can find out there targets Java."

—David Towler

Contact: 100% Pure Java Initiative, Web site: <http://www.java.sun.com/100percent>

## Survey shows Canadians top shareware consumers

A new survey of customer profiles and demand for shareware products shows Canadians have the world's biggest appetite for shareware.

The survey was conducted by SharewareWorld.com, which operates a Web site for news and information on the sector of the software market. SharewareWorld.com tracked its data between Jan. 11 and Feb. 1 and focused on user interest in installing, operating system and specific programs. The survey discovered strong interest in shareware on all continents, in both established and developing countries.

Among the top 10 countries, most shareware users came from Canada, followed in order of global interest by Australia, Sweden, the United Kingdom, Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium, France, Japan, France, Italy, Norway, Germany, Ireland, the United States, Israel, Brazil,

Spain, Singapore and Thailand.

On the software operating system popularity, there was little surprise when the survey found that the most popular platform for shareware usage was Windows 3.1 and 95, which together accounted for 61 percent of all users. Perhaps somewhat more surprising was the second most popular platform being going to OS/2, with 14 percent of total users. Followed in a close third by Macintosh with 11 percent and DOS with 10 percent, proving rumors of the latter's death are greatly exaggerated.

SharewareWorld.com is owned and operated by 41 Shareware Publishers of Canada and provides daily news and reviews of new shareware programs. □

Contact: SharewareWorld.com, Web site: <http://www.sharewareworld.com>



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5000	P133	16MB	1GB	6X	11.3" TFT	\$2,660
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# Edutainment producers graduate from preschool

BY JAM ALLEN INGLON



For the past few years, the early-learning crowd has been treated to some of the most innovative and engaging multimedia titles. Now, software companies are developing products to satisfy a generation raised on Reader Rabbit and Math Blaster.

**P**re-K to high schools with reputations for excellence in math and science have nothing to fret. They're in a safe spot of their lives. Parents and teachers still see their sons as the smiling precociously well-reading talent.

Software developers have seen the light and are now developing products to satisfy the generation raised on Reader Rabbit and Math Blaster. Software for this age group was previously ignored but is experiencing one of the fastest growth rates around.

Corel has released three life science death games in the last few months for this age group. While they have a game facade, they also teach facts, scientific method, and record keeping. Add them to Corel's ChemLab, a virtual chemistry lab, and you have a college-level, online textbook, and a new series of science (science) CDs called Rhinoblast, Thorax (Machinix) and Yarnies Island are the first titles in this series, and someone should give Corel an award for best effort this year in producing software for the life science disciplines.

Discovery Educational Multimedia has added a new title called Animal Planet to the earlier release of CorelChemLab. This is a game interface to PBS television series of the same name, created by James Baker. While the CD-ROM makes it sound like a quality title for the younger kids, it is designed for the over-14 age group. CorelChemLab also just released a new version of Chemistry Blaster on CD-ROM, which means that it reaches an entire year of high school chemistry.

#### Fun with the scientific method

The three life science mystery series CDs, Rhinoblast from Corel are titles at the Interactive Research Center, The Game Plan, and Beyond the Naked Eye. Each has two problems to solve and a similar interface. There are lots

and subtle clues. In all three programs, a guided tour introduces you to how the programs work, and an instructor tells you what to do next. The Learning Zone is an on-screen resource area with all encyclopedia, games, diagrams and games. Kids will read and receive email, and use a live machine interface, videoconference and a computer in their games.

Crises at Interactive Research Center is set up like a virtual online study display area. There are two paths to set up an experiment. Computer simulations from the real life science. An experiment scene has destroyed the data on the screen computer. Only a secret program—which can be found by searching questions on knowledge, selected view, and photo of different animals—can restore the film.

In Changes and Defense in the Wild, players must help an amphibian live in spots in less than 24 hours. To do this they must research defense mechanisms used by animals in the wild and then develop appropriate exhibits. Further game takes an interactive amount of time to solve, so they would be appropriate for 12 year olds to solve at school as well as at home.

This is the simplest version of the three in the series. It is the information in the Learning Zone that life is one of the eight-year-old category.

The other two also require more study and attention to more facts and details. Along the way, scientific method and experimentation are added. Particularly in the Rhinoblast

experiments set up in both The Game Plan and Beyond the Naked Eye to gather information to solve mysteries the clues are scattered back to the field workers who then question answers and thank them for their work.

Each gives a good idea of team work in life among the investigator, field personnel, and lab technician. There are videos with live, telephones, etc., interact with education, and lots with microscopes. While in the Learning Zone, players can solve a mystery the solutions of technical terms and great chapters from the textbooks.

The Game Plan contains two mysteries. The first, Oil Spill, asks you to look at a boat that undersea ocean life in the vicinity of the spill area can compare your data on healthy samples to show that may be damaged. This looks like a great game for learning biology and ecology.

In the Game Plan, you must monitor the Rhinoblast supply from an island that they have been contaminated by a spill from a chemical company. Kids will have to enter into the records to damage and prepare a report on how it may have affected life on the island.

Beyond the Naked Eye contains two mysteries involving stories, facts, and using scientific method. The Jungle Epidemic is a take-off of the Ebola virus case in Africa, while the AIDS Awareness Project deals with—what else but the AIDS virus. The video has lots of great and the set up of the life is not done. This program is probably the most difficult of the three, and perhaps over 14 or 15 year olds will find the play challenging and the content educational.

There are two games from these experimental and the scientific method, involving data carefully and modeling in simulation, experiment, etc., perhaps the lessons taught are as much about how science works as they are about ecology or microbiology. On this score, they will be a bonus for all turns to take the mystery out of the scientific process.

These Corel titles all run on Windows 3.1/Windows 95 or Macintosh computers and cost less than \$50 each.



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**Whole learning**

Discovery Channel's bold attempt to make animals and ecology palatable to older children works if you include its Internet companion in interesting class and at home times, which lets kids take information from the program's text screens and then transfer them to creating a successful report. The program, *Animal Planet*, follows a "whole learning" approach: Research skills and reading skills are integrated with the discovery and learning process within the program.

A counting eagle lets you drop down into any of a number of eco-environmental, such

as the, or some of the other levels by Robert Lewis Jensen, described in the excellent notes, a day.

The animations, rather than being cute and cuddly, have a great sense of fun and humor. Along the way, from agent, signaling that millions of organisms are available. Kids can now the like at their own pace and method as a run through of



the universe done, or as a guided tour. Some of the facts also include a guide to gloves, life at sea, the life and mode of dinosaurs, and the history of sailing ships of the past and the story's characters.

There are also maps and a discovery chart. Text pages may be printed or copied onto a computer. The CD-ROM would make a fun activity for

providing historical background to the book in classroom situations.

Like the other Corel titles, there are no Windows 3.1/4/95 or Macintosh images and no full-text search.

**Content:**

**Corel:** Tel: 416-334-8998.

Web site: <http://www.corel.com>

**Windows:** Tel: 800-545-9133

**Macintosh:** Tel: 800-475-5555

Web site: <http://www.discovery.com>



as a video frame or document. Each environment has a small hidden area in which you can find out facts on the animals that belong to that ecosystem. Information is also included on behaviors, physical characteristics, diets to similar animals etc.

What makes this different from *Encyclopedia: The World of Nature* is that the text is more matter and the exploration involves more game play or "funnel" in correct information about what lives in a particular environment. It is appropriate for 20 to 30-year-olds.

*Animal Planet* runs under Windows 3.1/Win 95 and costs \$19.95.

**Points, shapes and theorems**

I really like the new version of Geometry Master from Corel. It keeps a full year of geometry undisturbed in a search engine game format. There are no mistakes in that, just geometry problems to be solved. There is a textbook and three reference volumes in the series, and formulas and a glossary.

A glossary book is the first in the series (and book) with a glossary that lets kids draw lines and circles. Shapes automatically produce polygons, area and volume points on graphs (paper). The beginning coordinates on the paper may be entered, start from the lower left or upper right. When a point is

There is also a game-like complete shape in the form of an object with possible shapes to use to construct it. It looks like elementary geometry solving, but involves more thinking and more creative problem. A calculator is also included.

Geometry Master requires Windows 3.1/Win 95 or a Macintosh system and costs \$19.95.

**And a good story**

It all the math and science has your own solving that is also left at home in part up with, then Corel has just released to the masses with the release of *Shogakukan: The Great Japanese Book*. This is a delightful mix of animation and animation that drives into topics related to the story such as where players (teachers) may be found and explanations of their lost such as pieces of ships and skeletons. The animation has nine minutes of uninterrupted.

Does it replace reading the story? No, but it may just encourage your reluctant reader to



# A multimedia toolkit

BY GRAEME BENNETT

New and notable  
software and hardware  
for video creations

## Intel Smart Video Recorder III

Price: Indefinite (free trial) is priced as low as US\$149. PC capture card for PCs (users attempting analog video capture, good play-

back on software) (P5/P100) system. Device software (Apple's) Digital Video Producer. Web authoring tool. Can co-exist in a system with another video capture card such as the ATI D3 Express or ATI TV Wonder

the latest Video Recorder, significantly outperforms in terms of frame-rate. In the very corner, there's none!

The latest Intel Video Recorder III (SVR3) is significantly less expensive than the previous II system, and, unlike the earlier version, can play back the source it creates on machines that don't have the card installed.

The SVR3 relies on the power of your PC's Pentium-class CPU to process the digitized video. Thus, the faster the PC, the higher the frame-rate the card can capture. However, in my tests on a system with 32 MB of Intel and a 66 MHz Pentium, that had been upgraded with an Intel CoreLine Pentium to 133 MHz, the card was able to capture 120x90 pixel movies in quality and frame-rate comparable to that of MPEG playback. Using the supplied Action Video (www.actionvideo.com) captured movies at 30 frames per second (fps) at 120x90 pixels was very steady on the screen and provided convincing pictures, illumination video where the Windows 95 Movie Player (or QuickTime) introduced me to "Full Screen."

It is also possible to capture frames at 444x360, but the slower frame-rate significantly. Other capture options include capturing compressed (MPEG) or uncompressed 24-bit video, and capturing direct to RAM or hard disk. My tests showed that the latest Intel's SVR3 system, at its capture direct to disk provided acceptable 30 fps capture rates for extended periods. I observed a 415 MB sequence (only my system had data from a videotape with some audio from any system) AVCR3 saved (and the SVR3 does not have an built-in) that played back smoothly and looked good.

I have found that I could reduce this movie file size to only 20 MB by re-encoding it to MPEG using Xing Technology's MPEG Encoder. The re-encoded MPEG encoding options in the digital "Full TCU" (which is on the Web site, at <http://www.intel.com>) and noted that Intel's Action Video provides even better playback than MPEG does on a file or a slower playback system.

Reducing the amount of data your system must handle per second is essential in digital video intended for distribution via CD-ROM (before a CD-ROM player could be able to handle a data rate of as much as 3600x1800). Otherwise, video intended for distribution to network users and the Internet has to be set for an appropriate frame rate for that medium. Because the bandwidth limitations of CD-ROMs (which can currently hold the amount of video data that can be transmitted to online users, Web-based videos typically have bandwidths and highly compressed video, small (180x180) frame sizes, and lower frame-rates—10 about, pretty pathetic quality. The best streaming video technology at the moment appears to be Progressive Networks (RealVideo). As faster video compression techniques such as asymmetric digital subscriber line (ADSL) become available, the viability of several online delivery of digital video games will increase.

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Continued on page 28

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## A multimedia toolkit

Continued from page 28

If the increasingly mature segments of the digital video disc (DVD) environment can ever be achieved, DVD could also prove to be a viable medium for distributing digital video. For now, CD-ROM (and its water-cooler variant, CD-i-revivable) continues to be the best way to distribute video to desktop users.

It's worth mentioning that, for the best results, your source video should have a little more (precision) to provide. The analog-to-digital signal, the less effective the compression is, and, hence, the less of your source's precious bandwidth is used up trying to produce reasonable frame-averages. Thus, a

high-quality camcorder would provide a bet-ter source signal than a videoplate. The SVHS has both Super VHS and composite inputs. The SVHS option with its separate chroma and luma signals provides better quality.

To address problems that have plagued PC video capture and playback systems in the past, the SVHS's manual has a number of tips and optimization suggestions. A notable one is the option to introduce the video and audio, in order, to eliminate the possibility that the video and audio could fall out of sync.

As noted above, the Appendix Digital Video Processor kit software bundled with the SVHS is adequate for single source assembly and evaluation, without any kind of fee. DVD's rapid option recorded slightly better frame-rate than Adobe Premiere 4.0. Video

captures from the card also worked flawlessly with Corel Lumiere (reviewed below) and Adobe Premiere (reviewed previously), unlike Lumiere, did not allow any switching between multiple capture cards—a situation that few users are likely to have a problem with, anyway.

## Corel Lumiere

**Price:** (review) Premiere, Goals and sets like Adobe Premiere. Large number of predefined (customizable) effects suite, special effects only. Includes Photo-Point 4.0, Corel Motion 3.0, 100 levels, clipboards, sound wizard.

**Good:** Facts and shadow options on video (however, soft shadows can be built in Photo-Point), lacks device control support.

Corel's new LUMIERE (review) video editing program kills a larger-format clone of Adobe Premiere and has a Precision-like "timelapse" interface and flexibility-duplicates the essence of Premiere's standards of drag-and-drop move



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# Games mature multimedia, but quality still varies

BY GORDON GOREL

One type of software that has constantly pushed the envelope of multimedia development is the computer game. A modern game pushes the limits of a computer's CPU and its video and audio subsystems perhaps more than any other type of consumer software.

From the two-dimensional audio and visual experience of Frog, games adjust their visual and aural depiction of game space that, while any modern game will be a multimedia experience, the delivery of that experience is still not uniformly good. Here are a couple of cases in point.

#### Buyer's Disclosure

Buyer's Disclosure, a title of its last game series, and it measures up very well when compared to other games of its genre. The scenario is clear and uncluttered with the necessary scenes hidden from view unless called up to show a specific item, and the various puzzles will tax the grey matter of most adventure gamers with some unique twists and turns to solve.



Buyer's Disclosure, a title of its last game series, and it measures up very well when compared to other games of its genre. The scenario is clear and uncluttered with the necessary scenes hidden from view unless called up to show a specific item, and the various puzzles will tax the grey matter of most adventure gamers with some unique twists and turns to solve.

Available computer activities are limited to basic actions like talking, drinking, picking up and looking around. Combat scenes are common but are devoid of any pretensions; you (the Red Guy) simply appear when killed. A particularly welcome feature is the quality of the audio. Some of our best open CD-ROM titles have little on this score, but Buyer's Disclosure does a very good job of placing the player in the scene, and the audio is of a high quality. The game is available on both Windows and Macintosh. Buy it now!

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Continued on page 37

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**Games mature multimedia**

Continued from page 42

See this video on The Big by Locobits. You can choose whether through detailed first-person scenarios or use of future's action in each of a new game that will save battle from a single battlefield. There are various fights, puzzles to solve, items to be picked up and combinations of challenges to be analyzed. In essence, you must be a combination of scientist, warrior and diplomat to succeed in your goal.

A customizable interface at the battle's corner layer has designed the player to select different pieces within a large space. Different characters have different abilities, making it necessary to transport to the future moon. Then and return with the new facilities, you that make me do by puzzle. The Wargen has done that discovered the gas also managed to confirm the existence of life forms on Titan. All attempts to communicate with these alien have met with failure as battle's only hope lies with your character's ability to defeat them or gain their cooperation.

Your Diffid is equipped with some basic weapons as well as a backpack that sometimes holds some items. His weight is an important item. One of the first pieces of equipment you'll utilize is a device called the Wargen Densinger. Used to translate alien language, this handy gizmo will give you the ability to ask questions and establish peaceful relations with some of the species you will encounter.

Before long you'll be whisked off to a meeting with an alien leader, which sets the stage for the rest of the game. Did you make the right choice? Is your new ally one of the good guys or one of the bad guys? Almost all you can say for sure is thank God for science fiction.

**Captain Quasar**

An example of a two-player action game is 3D00's Captain Quasar. Advertised as a "rapid fire shooting adventure," Captain Quasar is a Windows 95 game that mostly succeeds in blowing me off to the moon.



It promises a curious simple hybrid of science-fiction shooting, to take over the galaxy. They said the only person who can stop them is the Doolie. Despite the Captain Quasar, battles occur on the enemy's home planets through a dog-dog line. City kind of view. Just Captain takes away the last goal gives with a variety of weapons while playing against you with... only you know, the standard arcade stuff.

The Big brother against the game is its two-dimensional control model. Its mission handler one, our battlefield here has to blow up some "space bachelors" that are due to launch and collect the galaxy. But the Captain's pathetic maneuverability certainly isn't going to help you keep them grounded.

Unfortunately your character's turning motion is mapped to the mouse's keypad, which prevents any of our 48 degrees per arc even comes 90 degrees. It's impossible to turn well. The real need is almost certainly in your

tail up to your target and blast off a few minutes a couple of ticks as in the left. Carefully controlling your aim, you fire again, only this time you're off! On the right side, how fast the cursor (or gunner) or beyond every slowly and when you think you're finally got a head on him, it's lights

There isn't the prospect of 30 more primary



will for you. However, it seems that while shooting around with the controls, your fingers have been built something a little of ping pong ball-shaped projectiles into the 3D. (Review page 48) The number two elements are Captain's the game the standard arcade

weapons and hundreds of enemy creatures that to look quite snuggling.

It's a shame that an action game with such tedious enemy hunter (the spinning little and red worms are included) is required by something as basic as its control method. Otherwise, it really could have something.

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1000

Like almost anything found in our forests—the little dots or dashes that provide the form on a tree. There are usually dozens of insects to choose from, and they can be almost anything—dog, ant-eater, weevil, beetle, or woodpecker. Even better, most camouflage is

grains and allow you to have six buttons, and the words that go with them, come onto the screen one at a time. They can also be used with the translational effects, such that you can have three appear, fade to white in left, slide in right, always from the right, etc.

**Figure 1**

Alt taught the student way to begin a presentation. First, he chooses a pre-prepared template, you may want to get creative and design your own cover backgrounds and colors. (He's not

prints allowed the user to fill an object, or an area, with different colors or designs. Today's programs also allow the user to fill areas with textures such as wood paper or marble. These textures can really give your presentation a much better look.

**Keywords:** child sexual abuse; disclosure; disclosure strategies

If your computer is a hot one and you have more coverage, you can add video effects to your presentation. Here, you choose a point during the presentation where you want the video. The video will usually be contained in a small window that appears in the slide.

By inserting the video output into your video, you will then be able to channel an event and activate an event. The event will be the winning of the video. With some programs you can also have the event simultaneously run multiple, in which case you will have video and sound. The only word of warning, here, is that this is a considerable strain on the computer system and you will want to be very sure that this feature is thoroughly tested before a final presentation.

As you can see, there are a number of variations, including ones that you would expect such as numerous fabric styles and even the ability to alter and match colors, hues, and designs. One style is designed, you can trust it is another presentation and there are a number of companies that make and/or produce to expand the audio rules often and/or create solutions for different companies.

## The New

1. *How much time do you spend on this activity?*

There are many software programs for making presentations. For example, AGAP from Software Publishing Corporation is a great little program that is not too powerful, but it is easy and quick to use. Computer, there's One Graphics, is a slick little add-on that will take an existing presentation and polish it up with touches of textmaps, pictures, sounds and effects. ABC Graphics from Macintosh, is a full-blown graphics program that is also able to make very professional presentations.

There are more of the companies that make products in this market. However, you probably already have presentation software in your office because the main players are Lotus, Corel and Microsoft. Besides Copious from Lotus, Presentation 7 from Corel, and PowerPoint 70 from Microsoft are the three presentation programs you will find in Microsoft's MS Office Professional Suite 7 and Microsoft Office 97, respectively. These are solid, powerful, integrated programs with attractive templates, object, sound and effects. Each has its own particular strengths and styles, but they are more similar than you

The ability to take a word-processing file or spreadsheet and have it automatically used as the basis of a presentation is common to these programs, as is the use of animating techniques such as a wheel or teletype. For example, PowerPoint's built-in Custom Wizard asks questions such as, "What kind of output will you use overheads, projection screen, stage show, Internet, Web?"

Another finding of *Presentation* is the window has windows. While viewing the slides in outline view, a small window can be open showing the corresponding slide, or vice versa. Lotus Intelligence Graphics has over 30 preset presentations for common business needs. Good Presentation 3 has built-in

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to help estimate the creation of presentation slides with either "3D" software, "interactive," "touch" and "digital" and even further distinction such as "positive customer." "Creative," "personal" or "marketing" there is a style in any situation.

Each of these programs allows the user to view the slide film screen or the ease of editing. In a relatively easy-to-use, each has an editing mode that allows for each and every operation and editing of the slides. As Windows programs, they all allow a user to drag and drop certain types of information into the slide.

This is because they differ in a specific: those called "3D" slide stands for object, layout and editing, and "3D" stands for object, layout and editing, and "3D" stands for object, layout and editing. These programs allow you to add images so that you can view the presentation on a computer and have a slide show to continue or try to make better. This is a great option if you want to set up an automated show.

Another feature that is becoming more common in these programs is the automatic printing of individual slides. The user can simply choose between printing out a small, standard collection of the slides across in a copy of the standard output. This can be done by paper for distribution or even to distribute in later viewing.

There are a number of other things that you will find you can do. For example, PowerPoint allows you to click a single CD in your CD player and record the output. In use in your presentation (of course, remembering to make copyright information), and each speaker has almost all other features that you will want to see.

## New and interesting

(Coffee room news)

Each of the major video presentation slides is making their presentation software help available. Which is to say, you can take a presentation that you have created and use it as a hypermedia document—a file that your information systems people can put on the company's Web page. Hey, you almost have a better way to get the go-go you expected.

## The finishing touches

(Where to go for help)

First, your manual will likely have a section presentation, followed by the program will provide a sample presentation. There's typically mentioned in this article has a rich page, often with examples. Next, there are numerous books on working in PowerPoint, PowerPoint Graphics and Good Presentation. As well, there are night school and regional courses for this type of thing. Lastly, practice.

Only when you understand what your particular audience and your particular software can do will you write down enough to start looking at your presentation or what they really see.

We didn't want to scare anyone, but the truth is there is a certain amount of artistic skill that comes into play when putting together a good presentation. If you have that skill, it's not a problem. If you don't have that skill, this may be something that they say to you, "You're not a writer, you're not a writer, you're not a writer, you're not a writer." Congratulations on your new status as computer guru, and good luck. Q

## A multimedia toolkit

Continued from page 33

### ATI Pro Turbo+PC2TV, plus ATI-TV capture option for PCI PCs

**Price:** The ATI Pro TurboPC2TV RAGE II chip provides hardware support for Direct3D acceleration (the earlier 3Dfx Voodoo's RAGE chip did not support hardware-accelerated Direct3D) on 2D and 3D drivers (we generally couldn't find, and the card provided good 3DPS and full-screen ATI playback). Compatible video cards, modulation settings and gamma (video) controls. TV output settings (computer and DVD) are flexible and provide a stable picture at 440MHz or 800MHz on standard resolutions or VGA. The card and Zoom controls are provided.

The optional ATI-TV board (the DA box) provides video capture and TV playback, including closed-caption, slow and capture

options. The card supports "weirdly ready," which allows TV or video sources to be displayed at any size on your computer screen with no slowdown, and ATI is available in Canada. **Cost:** We had to wait for the card to be displayed in our test TV. But quite as fast as a comparable price offerings from others, the

### Maxtor DiamondMax

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**Cost:** Inexpensive. I've seen it as low as \$249.99 via mail order, quiet and fast. And 5.1 GB. That's an amazing price per gigabyte. **Cost:** Inexpensive. I've seen it as low as \$249.99 via mail order, quiet and fast. And 5.1 GB. That's an amazing price per gigabyte.

stored on such compatibility problems, although there was one minor snag: the newly installed driver's Maxtor Formatting software was apparently installed on the (the manufacturer's hard drive had, in order to long story short, I couldn't seem to access the hard drive to copy the software in a floppy. The solution was to download another copy of the software from Maxtor's Web site (<http://www.maxtor.com>). The software worked flawlessly and performed and set up the drive as desired.

It should be noted that IDE hard drives are generally considered to be less suitable than SCSI "IDE" drives (probably of the last outside or better variety, and configured in advanced around the professional video applications). Nevertheless, we experienced no obvious picture distortion in our subsequent of images drive. Q

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# Showing your stuff on the big screen

New hardware for professional presentations

BY BAYLE TANAKA

If you don't shake the thought of having your important clients looking at your laptop screen in yet your latest idea presentation, help is at hand. Low-cost solutions like overhead and 35-mm slide projection are being joined by other technologies to help you put your message onto the big screen.

## The good old fall

In many organizations, the overhead projector on a 35-mm slide projector is still widely used to present information to groups. One problem with these devices, however, is the amount of pre-presentation work you have to go through, particularly if you are using a presentation program on your computer to generate the material.

Once you've created your PowerPoint or Freehand presentation, you then have to find some way to output the frames into the appropriate medium. With an overhead projector, you need both a cable, box car projector (even by running clear acetate through a laser printer in an adapter if you want color). With a slide projector, unless you're invested in a special image processor that can put your image onto 35-mm film, you have to send your presentation to a service bureau.

The other problem is that once you've prepared the final copy, it is a hassle to change the presentation. If you are in a cramped spot, you might not have the time to find a service bureau (let alone make the changes for you before presentation time).

The solution, of course, is to stay digital. In that, you'll need something that can put your computer images onto a larger viewing surface. You have three choices at this point: VGA to video converters, LCD overhead projectors, and so-called multislide projectors.

## VGA to video

This is a relatively old technology and one that can give results ranging from mediocre to pretty good. Devices using this technology are also inexpensive. The basic technology is a converter that takes in the VGA signal from your computer (many also support Macintosh) and sends out a video signal that a standard TV or VCR can handle. Their right to use this, you'll also have to make sure your client has a TV and you can use.

The simplest converters cost around \$200 and consist of little more than a small box with input and output connections. More upscale models feature remote control units, the ability to zoom in on an image, better focus control, and multiple input and output ports.

## LCD panels

Mounted up in price are liquid crystal display (LCD) panels. These are either flat-panel displays made like you'd see on a notebook computer, but without the back. They are used in conjunction with an overhead projector unit, which projects a light source through the image area and onto a screen which reflects the image into the wall.

These have become fairly common in board rooms and lecture halls. We had screens to use one recently during a presentation

in an amphitheatre. Getting the unit up was a simple matter of plugging a cable into the VGA output port on a portable computer and

turning the unit on.

In the early stages of the technology, LCD panels would produce only monochrome

images at a limited number of colors, and the projected image was often dim. However, most current models will produce an 8-

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display content in the VGA driver to your portable can show it all.

The overhead projector units, on which the LCD panels sit, are also being designed to produce more light. It has been estimated that an LCD panel will absorb about 80 percent of the light passing through it, so images projected through an older unit won't appear very bright. Look for an overhead projector with a lumens rating of 3,000 or more.

Prices for LCD panels range from around \$2,000 to \$10,000. As the latest rule, expect

only VGA-resolution, dual-screen units with an image area of eight to nine inches (or else diagonal) boards based on passive matrix screens tend to have lower cost and less vibrant colors. Because the pixels refresh more slowly than on active matrix screens, the passive matrix panels are not as well suited for projecting other image content, such as animated slide show sequences or those from a VCR.

More expensive units will use a TFT panel with a screen area of 10 to 11 inches, the dis-

ty is more vibrant and a better fit for applications and a constant state of motion. Liquid crystals may also enable limited projection or contrast, and may also include multimedia features like built-in speakers and the ability to receive input from other sources like video from a VCR.

#### Multimedia projectors

The latest developments in business presentation hardware is the multimedia projector—ones that show glass big-screen TV pictures

projected on giant screens.

These units are very widely in price, but report to say at least 10,000. Many are being designed more for personal installations than for workplace presentations, so more. However, a number of manufacturers also make smaller units that are designed to be portable.

A typical portable projector unit would weigh 7.4 lb (3.4 kg) and would be able to project a 4-megapixel (2048x1536) image (screened separately).

Basic multimedia projector units often a single 8-lb (3.6 kg) LCD screen, or an arrangement of three smaller LCDs, one each for red, green and blue. The light source in a 250-watt or greater model bulb; bulb is a powerful light source means a unit will be able to project brighter images, so a larger lamp. For example, many units can project a 25-foot image. Some manufacturers say their high-end models can be used with the latest light sources.



Sharp Electronics recently introduced its SX-8V2L portable LCD projector. It's 7.4 lb (3.4 kg) and will support both PC and Macintosh inputs. Estimated cost is \$2,999.



Verbatim's D-400 series Digital Multimedia Projector, which are semiconductor light sources. The company says the emitting can cause a minor burn, allowing images to be projected in 100% focus at 200 ft. The unit has a suggested retail price of \$4,999.

Among the other features available on multimedia projectors are:

- auto focus
- remote control devices that allow you to control the screen
- input jacks for VCR or other video sources
- built-in screen amplifier and speakers

#### Contact

For more information, look in the Yellow Pages under Audio Visual Equipment.

Common sense you may find include:

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## Easy to use AverKey5 puts your PC on TV

do that without having to reach across the room. A VGA-out

jack also means you could send the signal to a large computer screen, or an LCD projector with —BT

Copyright AverMedia, Inc. 004-000-0002  
Web site: <http://www.avermedia.com>

The AverKey5, from AverMedia, is a plug-and-play kind of device that allows you to take the output from your portable computer and display it on a standard TV set. This model is the most expensive of the several made by AverMedia, and includes a number of nice extras for the \$400 suggested selling price.

The unit is small at 2.5x3x3.3 cm (0.9x1.3x1.3 inches) and weighs in at 40g (1.4 oz.) so it won't add too much to your carry-on bag. However, you'll also have to pack the AC adapter, remote control and cables.

We found the unit utterly simple to use: we connected the appropriate (and automatic) cables from the VGA port on a notebook PC, to the AverKey unit, and from the external port on the AverKey to the TV set's video-in port. Our iMac in bag (in small, the video cable is a standard RCA plug type, so if you have a TV set that accepts only a cable TV type connector, you'll have to use RCA cable to a VCR and then plug the VCR into the TV set).

A problem common to many screen-and-TV-to-video connectors is the screen's display isn't quite as good as the TV image, but although they're in mind that the TV image from any of these devices won't compare with what you'd see on a good computer monitor of the same size.

We also compared the AverKey signal to that produced by an NTSC/PCDTV card in a desktop PC, and sent to the same TV set. We judged the AverKey image to be somewhat more flickery but a lot sharper than old analog, a greater degree of control over the image characteristics. However, if you're not interested in buying your desktop PC around a customer's site, the AverKey makes a practical choice.

While the AverKey claims to have auto-synchronization control, we still noticed that the edges of the image were cut off on the TV set. We would want to make sure to design the screens of your slides or they don't extend right to the border of the screen, which is a good idea at least in any case. Apart from this, we were satisfied with the unit, and impressed with the simplicity of the setup.

Moreover, if you want to find the software utilities that come with the unit, you'll be able to use the remote control unit as a wireless mouse, and also include a feature called remote zoom. This is the ability to zoom into the image at the screen position. A similar feature called pan allows you to center the cursor position on the screen.

The screen area is fixed at 360 percent, and even without the remote position sensor, buttons on the remote control unit allow you to zoom into one of three preset areas of the screen.

The AverKey5 has a number of input and output ports. If you wanted to run a video camera as part of your presentation, you'll be able to

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# Tools of the trade

A look at some new and improved graphics applications

BY GRAEME BENNITT

## Adobe Acrobat 3.0



In a recent Adobe product demonstration, the Acrobat product, up next in front of a crowd of graphics professionals and designers, usually all of whom were new at one or more Adobe products—and asked how many people used Photoshop. Nearly all the hands in the room went up. By then, about how many had used Postscript? Despite all the hands went up, the third asked how many knew what a PDF file was—and only a few hands popped up above the sea of postcards and dog-eared mats.

In simple Acrobat is one of Adobe's best-kept secrets, and that the company hasn't been trying to change that. According to Adobe, over one million people have downloaded its free Acrobat Reader for Windows, OS/2, and Mac via the World Wide Web, and virtually all Adobe products include documentation in the Acrobat "portable document format" (you might know describe it as "digital paper's" files in The Computer Papers, we have posted our monthly lab test labels and charts on our Web site (http://www.adobe.com) for over a year. That's why?

Acrobat files can be "printed-to-look" from any program on any platform and the resulting file can be viewed—on any of the print devices mentioned above—statically as it would be printed by the original application. Even if that application is not present on the host, you won't require. Acrobat files can especially include copies of the original fonts, or download fonts themselves, and can be accessed to see to take a closer look.

When Acrobat files are printed the file format's greatest strength comes into play: The file plays at the maximum resolution of the output device. In other words, Acrobat format is resolution-independent. It can also include embedded images or virtually any other element (you might naturally prefer to a Postscript printer, but considerably simpler) for the Postscript language from which Acrobat draws many of its core strengths.

For version 3.0, Adobe has reworked Acrobat to support many of the features that could make it a viable platform for prepress document delivery. Acrobat 3.0 supports documents and color separations, color management, transfer functions, resolution reduction,

and vector graphics and support for Type 1 and TrueType fonts.

Moreover, Adobe has improved Acrobat as

a vehicle for delivering published documents, while the Web server that supports "print streaming," such as Microsoft's Internet

Information Server 3.0, Acrobat files can be displayed a page at a time, rather than downloading the whole file. Informational >

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The package includes the Aerotec Caprese pump, a stripped-down version of the availability, much more expensive. Aerotec Caprese product that use an OCB, is typical electrical equipment, rather to deliver the

level of paper documents and converts those documents to PDFs for Windows 95 (and, according to the Adobe rep, "soon" for PowerPC).

The lengthy Arabic *MAADAH* file which "The Arabic Caption plug-in is a subset of the standard Arabic Caption product. It is intended for desktop use (12 to 15 pages at a time). To launch screen reviews of documents, create output in popular word processing formats and perform selective editing, use the standard *Arabic Caption*."

These limitations notwithstanding, the inclusion of the Captive plugin is a great improvement. It is remarkable to see your page automatically scanned, interpreted, indexed and output as a HTML file. First of all, any search the GCS engine does not require any complexity involved in a graphics interface—so the life is completely human readable and all but the unimportant words are machine-readable, using the included Crawler and Search functions.

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It's optionally configured to be backward-compatible with Windows 95, which guarantees better compatibility with certain programs (e.g., Windows 7 can open and edit corrupted FAT files in the 3.1 format, but not the newer and more compact NT format). It's worth mentioning that PageMaker 6.5 also includes the full version of Adobe's Illustrator 8.5.

On the downside, the DOS version of Internet Reading has not been localized. It is no longer fully supported, the latest localized 3.0 release does not ship with 729 bytes of Windows NT, Captain plug-in for Windows NT, or support the reading or viewing PDF files with Japanese (certainly) fonts etc. Using Internet Explorer 3.0, PDF texts can be viewed, but it is not printed, so they can't be submitted or reviewed, when the submission button is pressed, an error dialog will be displayed, from something is not available for Windows NT systems. The Captain plug-in does not support many recent features. Missing are: direct file upload/scanner, the User Agent, the User Agent, and some other components. The Japanese version of the software was provided by a Japanese BBS (BBS is Acronyms for Bulletin Board System).

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**Quartz:** Can't read Word files from Office 97 because they have been saved in an older file format? Still can't convert a version 5 Mac PageMaker document to version 6.5 on a PC, or vice versa. The QuartzPro converter for Windows cannot convert a QuartzPro/Mac file. Nope, it's a little different file is opened in the PC version of Affinity, the PageMaker converter can handle it. The Apple QuartzPro 3.2 for Windows installer fails if the Control Panel window is open.

Being a product reviewer is not easy. I have put in thousands of hours of my life trying to bring you the pros, colored immeasurable bugs in both random and various releases and sent the people who have to deal with the situation in its current 4.51 version. In all, I've used Parallels for close to a decade.

With the clarity of hindsight, it's apparent that version 3.0's bugs, the speed demon, Adobe PageMaker 3.00E was the version that brought color publishing to its current status. Version 4.0 was the release that was

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Category	Product	Unit	Q1 2023	Q2 2023	Q3 2023	Q4 2023	Q1 2024	Q2 2024	Q3 2024	Q4 2024	Q1 2025	Q2 2025	Q3 2025	Q4 2025	Q1 2026	Q2 2026	Q3 2026	Q4 2026	Q1 2027	Q2 2027	Q3 2027	Q4 2027	Q1 2028	Q2 2028	Q3 2028	Q4 2028	Q1 2029	Q2 2029	Q3 2029	Q4 2029	Q1 2030	Q2 2030	Q3 2030	Q4 2030	Q1 2031	Q2 2031	Q3 2031	Q4 2031	Q1 2032	Q2 2032	Q3 2032	Q4 2032	Q1 2033	Q2 2033	Q3 2033	Q4 2033	Q1 2034	Q2 2034	Q3 2034	Q4 2034	Q1 2035	Q2 2035	Q3 2035	Q4 2035	Q1 2036	Q2 2036	Q3 2036	Q4 2036	Q1 2037	Q2 2037	Q3 2037	Q4 2037	Q1 2038	Q2 2038	Q3 2038	Q4 2038	Q1 2039	Q2 2039	Q3 2039	Q4 2039	Q1 2040	Q2 2040	Q3 2040	Q4 2040	Q1 2041	Q2 2041	Q3 2041	Q4 2041	Q1 2042	Q2 2042	Q3 2042	Q4 2042	Q1 2043	Q2 2043	Q3 2043	Q4 2043	Q1 2044	Q2 2044	Q3 2044	Q4 2044	Q1 2045	Q2 2045	Q3 2045	Q4 2045	Q1 2046	Q2 2046	Q3 2046	Q4 2046	Q1 2047	Q2 2047	Q3 2047	Q4 2047	Q1 2048	Q2 2048	Q3 2048	Q4 2048	Q1 2049	Q2 2049	Q3 2049	Q4 2049	Q1 2050	Q2 2050	Q3 2050	Q4 2050	Q1 2051	Q2 2051	Q3 2051	Q4 2051	Q1 2052	Q2 2052	Q3 2052	Q4 2052	Q1 2053	Q2 2053	Q3 2053	Q4 2053	Q1 2054	Q2 2054	Q3 2054	Q4 2054	Q1 2055	Q2 2055	Q3 2055	Q4 2055	Q1 2056	Q2 2056	Q3 2056	Q4 2056	Q1 2057	Q2 2057	Q3 2057	Q4 2057	Q1 2058	Q2 2058	Q3 2058	Q4 2058	Q1 2059	Q2 2059	Q3 2059	Q4 2059	Q1 2060	Q2 2060	Q3 2060	Q4 2060	Q1 2061	Q2 2061	Q3 2061	Q4 2061	Q1 2062	Q2 2062	Q3 2062	Q4 2062	Q1 2063	Q2 2063	Q3 2063	Q4 2063	Q1 2064	Q2 2064	Q3 2064	Q4 2064	Q1 2065	Q2 2065	Q3 2065	Q4 2065	Q1 2066	Q2 2066	Q3 2066	Q4 2066	Q1 2067	Q2 2067	Q3 2067	Q4 2067	Q1 2068	Q2 2068	Q3 2068	Q4 2068	Q1 2069	Q2 2069	Q3 2069	Q4 2069	Q1 2070	Q2 2070	Q3 2070	Q4 2070	Q1 2071	Q2 2071	Q3 2071	Q4 2071	Q1 2072	Q2 2072	Q3 2072	Q4 2072	Q1 2073	Q2 2073	Q3 2073	Q4 2073	Q1 2074	Q2 2074	Q3 2074	Q4 2074	Q1 2075	Q2 2075	Q3 2075	Q4 2075	Q1 2076	Q2 2076	Q3 2076	Q4 2076	Q1 2077	Q2 2077	Q3 2077	Q4 2077	Q1 2078	Q2 2078	Q3 2078	Q4 2078	Q1 2079	Q2 2079	Q3 2079	Q4 2079	Q1 2080	Q2 2080	Q3 2080	Q4 2080	Q1 2081	Q2 2081	Q3 2081	Q4 2081	Q1 2082	Q2 2082	Q3 2082	Q4 2082	Q1 2083	Q2 2083	Q3 2083	Q4 2083	Q1 2084	Q2 2084	Q3 2084	Q4 2084	Q1 2085	Q2 2085	Q3 2085	Q4 2085	Q1 2086	Q2 2086	Q3 2086	Q4 2086	Q1 2087	Q2 2087	Q3 2087	Q4 2087	Q1 2088	Q2 2088	Q3 2088	Q4 2088	Q1 2089	Q2 2089	Q3 2089	Q4 2089	Q1 2090	Q2 2090	Q3 2090	Q4 2090	Q1 2091	Q2 2091	Q3 2091	Q4 2091	Q1 2092	Q2 2092	Q3 2092	Q4 2092	Q1 2093	Q2 2093	Q3 2093	Q4 2093	Q1 2094	Q2 2094	Q3 2094	Q4 2094	Q1 2095	Q2 2095	Q3 2095	Q4 2095	Q1 2096	Q2 2096	Q3 2096	Q4 2096	Q1 2097	Q2 2097	Q3 2097	Q4 2097	Q1 2098	Q2 2098	Q3 2098	Q4 2098	Q1 2099	Q2 2099	Q3 2099	Q4 2099	Q1 2100	Q2 2100	Q3 2100	Q4 2100	Q1 2101	Q2 2101	Q3 2101	Q4 2101	Q1 2102	Q2 2102	Q3 2102	Q4 2102	Q1 2103	Q2 2103	Q3 2103	Q4 2103	Q1 2104	Q2 2104	Q3 2104	Q4 2104	Q1 2105	Q2 2105	Q3 2105	Q4 2105	Q1 2106	Q2 2106	Q3 2106	Q4 2106	Q1 2107	Q2 2107	Q3 2107</
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Indeed, PageMaker 4.0 is not only good enough to stand up to QuarkXPress, but better. It is in enough areas that it is worth upgrading, even if only for the occasional use. In fact, this program deserves that does its advantage—effect usually superior—in fact, however, Adobe has priced PageMaker 4.0 upgrade low enough to make Quark seem more like a scam. Page 4 is a 100% upgrade from any previous PageMaker release—yes, even the version in the old PageMaker 3.0

box that's building up a monster software. So, if 4.0 is such an improvement, why didn't Adobe designate it as version 3.0? Good question. (Actually, Adobe's marketing claim that when we finally do see 7.0, we'll know why.) As my wife, then it is an upgrade worth considering. (In casual desktop publishing, I still think a "modernized" program like Microsoft Publisher 97 is a better bet. I doubt that Adobe has much of a chance at winning away all the professional publishers currently using Xpress here, but for those

who are currently PageMaker users at work, purchase users who need to take the step into new desktop publishing, this is a solid, worthwhile upgrade.

## Macromedia Freehand 7 Graphics Studio

Free, London value add competitor to Adobe Illustrator Corel's

Freehand 7 is another app that has had a



Freehand's many features and parties can be extended to reduce some other than the workflow has been treated with Office 95's Mac OS 10 function and joined to that as Pathfinder. The free, then purchased with Adobe (provided with Acrobat and PageMaker as desktop suite in this price). The resulting PDF file may then be opened as an interactive graphic, ready to be viewed.

The other component of Freehand Graphics Suite can save and restore (disposable) Freehand files directly.

long and checked history. Once an Adobe product, the great success of version 3.0 on the later, sponsored a Windows version, and then evolved into a program called VectorPro for the Mac OS platform in the late 1990s. That product didn't sell very well, but because the code base for Freehand 4 and subsequent PC and Mac versions. The driving force behind

Continued on page 140

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### Tools of the trade

Continued from page 18

There are a huge number of other devices in the CoreDraw 7 package (a double-sized 3 inch 1/2 disc to produce the DTP code on the March 97 edition of PC's, screen-making, OCR and scanning interface (including Extensis' proof difference software that automatically redlines and changes screen images), plus a CoreDraw version 8 Key-Stream's AddDepth 3D wire model suite just a few 70-cent add-ons across Coast of our piling on the features.

Another attraction of the 7.0 edition is CoreDraw's inclusion of a limited version of Key Stream Designer 4.0 (under the same CoreDraw license). An earlier version of CoreDraw was included with CoreDraw 6.0, along with CoreMotion 3D, a utility that has been abandoned from this package. CoreDraw will include 3D as part of its 12899 Lifetime value-added suite.

For a big believer in the potential of photo-realistic 3D graphics to expand the visual language of designers, just as digital image editors and advanced vector graphics tools have expanded the notion of "digital" over the last few years. The perception that Core has nurtured the consumer market with many of its products hasn't stopped CoreDraw from dominating the pro-design market on the PC, but 1. But many pro-design users, have found its tools to be unresponsive in the past. With that said, version 7 has been absolutely stable overall. (We will actually point out a likely 4-bit improvement) over the days of the Windows 3.1 versions.

In any case, CoreDraw 7 is indeed as robust as reporting, exporting and printing (both version 6.0 was, but I have experienced some of the "same old problems"—usually related to exporting or exporting vector graphics files. A good example is CoreDraw 7's ability to export 3D objects. Files saved in this format could PageMaker (even the current PageMaker 4.31 version) although PageMaker can indeed place files saved from CoreDraw 3.0 or other formats saved from CoreDraw 7 such as EPS, CMYK, TIFF, etc. Apparently, CoreDraw 7 is writing itself into future iterations in its 5.8 format CDR files. Indeed, many want to CoreDraw's capabilities from and on Core's Creative Commons discussion group (<http://www.powercomp.com>). Even beyond recommending a variety of add-ons, such as complex files, printing, saving in older formats, and so on. Nevertheless, the package's inclusion of several important categories of desktop publishing tools and its undeniable value make it a worthwhile addition to the PC user's toolkit. G

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1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 2158, 2159, 2160, 2161, 2162, 2163, 2164, 2165, 2166, 2167, 2168, 2169, 2170, 2171, 2172, 2173, 2174, 2175, 2176, 2177, 2178, 2179, 2180, 2181, 2182, 2183, 2184, 2185, 2186, 2187, 2188, 2189, 2190, 2191, 2192, 2193, 2194, 2195, 2196, 2197, 2198, 2199, 2200, 2201, 2202, 2203, 2204, 2205, 2206, 2207, 2208, 2209, 2210, 2211, 2212, 2213, 2214, 2215, 2216, 2217, 2218, 2219, 2220, 2221, 2222, 2223, 2224, 2225, 2226, 2227, 2228, 2229, 2230, 2231, 2232, 2233, 2234, 2235, 2236, 2237, 2238, 2239, 2240, 2241, 2242, 2243, 2244, 2245, 2246, 2247, 2248, 2249, 2250, 2251, 2252, 2253, 2254, 2255, 2256, 2257, 2258, 2259, 2260, 2261, 2262, 2263, 2264, 2265, 2266, 2267, 2268, 2269, 2270, 2271, 2272, 2273, 2274, 2275, 2276, 2277, 2278, 2279, 2280, 2281, 2282, 2283, 2284, 2285, 2286, 2287, 2288, 2289, 2290, 2291, 2292, 2293, 2294, 2295, 2296, 2297, 2298, 2299, 2300, 2301, 2302, 2303, 2304, 2305, 2306, 2307, 2308, 2309, 2310, 2311, 2312, 2313, 2314, 2315, 2316, 2317, 2318, 2319, 2320, 2321, 2322, 2323, 2324, 2325, 2326, 2327, 2328, 2329, 2330, 2331, 2332, 2333, 2334, 2335, 2336, 2337, 2338, 2339, 2340, 2341, 2342, 2343, 2344, 2345, 2346, 2347, 2348, 2349, 2350, 2351, 2352, 2353, 2354, 2355, 2356, 2357, 2358, 2359, 2360, 2361, 2362, 2363, 2364, 2365, 2366, 2367, 2368, 2369, 2370, 2371, 2372, 2373, 2374, 2375, 2376, 2377, 2378, 2379, 2380, 2381, 2382, 2383, 2384, 2385, 2386, 2387, 2388, 2389, 2390, 2391, 2392, 2393, 2394, 2395, 2396, 2397, 2398, 2399, 2400, 2401, 2402, 2403, 2404, 2405, 2406, 2407, 2408, 2409, 2410, 2411, 2412, 2413, 2414, 2415, 2416, 2417, 2418, 2419, 2420, 2421, 2422, 2423, 2424, 2425, 2426, 2427, 2428, 2429, 2430, 2431, 2432, 2433, 2434, 2435, 2436, 2437, 2438, 2439, 2440, 2441, 2442, 2443, 2444, 2445, 2446, 2447, 2448, 2449, 2450, 2451, 2452, 2453, 2454, 2455, 2456, 2457, 2458, 2459, 2460, 2461, 2462, 2463, 2464, 2465, 2466, 2467, 2468, 2469, 2470, 2471, 2472, 2473, 2474, 2475, 2476, 2477, 2478, 2479, 2480, 2481, 2482, 2483, 2484, 2485, 2486, 2487, 2488, 2489, 2490, 2491, 2492, 2493, 2494, 2495, 2496, 2497, 2498, 2499, 2500, 2501, 2502, 2503, 2504, 2505, 2506, 2507, 2508, 2509, 2510, 2511, 2512, 2513, 2514, 2515, 2516, 2517, 2518, 2519, 2520, 2521, 2522, 2523, 2524, 2525, 2526, 2527, 2528, 2529, 2530, 2531, 2532, 2533, 2534, 2535, 2536, 2537, 2538, 2539, 2540, 2541, 2542, 2543, 2544, 2545, 2546, 2547, 2548, 2549, 2550, 2551, 2552, 2553, 2554, 2555, 2556, 2557, 2558, 2559, 2560, 2561, 2562, 2563, 2564, 2565, 2566, 2567, 2568, 2569, 2570, 2571, 2572, 2573, 2574, 2575, 2576, 2577, 2578, 2579, 2580, 2581, 2582, 2583, 2584, 2585, 2586, 2587, 2588, 2589, 2590, 2591, 2592, 2593, 2594, 2595, 2596, 2597, 2598, 2599, 2600, 2601, 2602, 2603, 2604, 2605, 2606, 2607, 2608, 2609, 2610, 2611, 2612, 2613, 2614, 2615, 2616, 2617, 2618, 2619, 2620, 2621, 2622, 2623, 2624, 2625, 2626, 2627, 2628, 2629, 2630, 2631, 2632, 2633, 2634, 2635, 2636, 2637, 2638, 2639, 2640, 2641, 2642, 2643, 2644, 2645, 2646, 2647, 2648, 2649, 2650, 2651, 2652, 2653, 2654, 2655, 2656, 2657, 2658, 2659, 2660, 2661, 2662, 2663, 2664, 2665, 2666, 2667, 2668, 2669, 2670, 2671, 2672, 2673, 2674, 2675, 2676, 2677, 2678, 2679, 26

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collection of AC feeds under your desk. Unfortunately, Colfax has opted to put the plug directly onto the power supply, which means with lots of computer hardware will have meant losing the outlets to the left and right (or above and below) of your power line.

Downside to the box you'll find one mill of a 2x12 34-in (2.6k in.) black and one desktop that holds your drives and your software. Also included is one half-inch thick, clear acrylic for your pet's head. Colfax will sell you packs of 50 of these desks for \$9.95 if

you want more down the road, but I'm fairly confident that baby wipes are considerably more economical and just as effective (but then, I'm not a daddy).

Once plugged in and powered up, it's a simple process to install the appropriate drivers for your operating system (there's a choice of Windows 95, NT and 3.x) and install the software packages called AddressMate and Easy Software Suite that come bundled with the machine.

AddressMate, as you might expect, is a

mailing database that links to your word processor so you can print one-off or multiple letters and control the layout and font. EASY Suite also allow you to apply addresses from your AddressMate database onto your letters and envelopes as well as with them around to wherever you might want to put them. The printer installation here is that AddressMate will only integrate with And Pro, Visual for Windows or WordPerfect for Windows.

The integration of graphics onto your

label (e.g., a company logo) is also possible through the use of a scanner, as long as your image is in bitmap (BMP), Postscript (PS), TIF (TIF), Tagged Image File Format (TIFF) or Tagged Image File Format (TIFF) format. The flexibility of this program is well reflected by the fact that the manual for the AddressMate XL Plus is only 33 pages long while the documentation for AddressMate makes a whopping 230 pages.



The other software package, Easy Software Suite, was developed by Colfax as computing drive individual components: Easy Label, Easy Bar Code and Easy Design. In the second version, Colfax has chosen to make the respective label, bar code, or design tool AddressMate's being quick unless for making simple one-off examples of each (i.e., the Easy Software Suite doesn't maximize its own database, instead it's called upon for those quick, "I need a label for the box, or maybe some 'business' addresses). Easy Design generates photo ID badges on the spot using any files for Windows 95/NT compliant device you might have access to.

My experience with the LabelWriter XL Plus was that it was quite "no-nonsense" and was easy to handle. The labels install through their designated path without excessive complication and the output—since I got AddressMate Plus Expanded versions of very high quality.

#### Smart Label Printer E230

From: Seiko

Advanced capabilities (E230)



The E230 is Seiko's "entry level" and has extensive features in the popular E230 Plus. It's very compact, unobtrusive, and, as reflected in the price, somewhat limited in what it

can do in that it accepts only 3.5x1.5 (in) or 3.5x2.5 (in) 1/8-inch-thick labels. The owner's manual promises other items for future availability but without indicating what other items might be possible. However, there are a variety of things you can do with whatever might fit into that space—they can't be called "standard address labels" for nothing.

Collectively, as is might be expected, as simple as power-to-label makes, label output: cable-to-serial port. A data switch that the cable from allows you to connect to a wire-jack or 25-pin COM port by having both connect to the same line. However, the Colfax, Seiko has opted for putting the AC plug directly into the power supply and, similarly, they're driven in a real of labels.

Drives and software come in two packages and installed without problems.

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Self's software is called SLIP (the latest label label) and though it comes in both DOS and Windows versions, I looked only at the DOS. The manual for the EZ30 and the SLIP software are integrated into a single volume which covers all aspects of both.

The SLIP for Windows version operates through a WYSIWYG (what you see is what you get) window interface, giving you a computer picture of your label on the screen before you send it to the label maker. Though it operates quite differently, the features and abilities of SLIP are pretty much the same as the AddressMate package that comes with the ColorJet. SLIP will even generate the E-Save Office PORTNET codes above the text on your label to automatically speed delivery along. Graphics are possible here too, but it's a somewhat complex process to capture, edit and add them.

The EZ30 is a very basic label maker at a very basic price too, thanks to the software, capable of some very sophisticated design as long as they fit within the prescribed dimensions of the label. The label path is so direct I can't even imagine having a kinkage, except, perhaps if a label gets dog-eared on its way through the machine. Cleaning will be easy enough too, as removing the top cover exposes the labels to a Q-Tip clipped in a slot.

#### Smart Label Printer P80

Price: \$249

Unbeatable street price. IBM

Depressingly the cheapest guy on the block, the fat black Smart Label Printer P80 costs less. Self's completely new machine for generating labels up to the 3.75x13.5 in. (3.75x13.5 in.) "business" size. These other labels are available for this machine—the 3.5x5 in. (3.5x5 in.) standard address label, the 3.5x11 in. (3.5x11 in.) standard address label, and a 3.5x11 in. (3.5x11 in.) standard address label.



As with the EZ30, the box contains everything you need to get started—label maker, the user double-sided connecting cable to your computer, two discs and software diskettes, a manual that contains machine use and software instructions in one volume and a list of all standard address labels.

Of course, the power supply is in there too, but this one is a somewhat different. It's the AC brick has the cable to the label maker hard-wired into it and has a standard three-prong power connector (the line on the front of the computer is standard). It's also, like the others, but a nice straight paper path that ought to eliminate any label-binding jams. It's actually not happening, however, as the machine gets just plain dirty from dusting the best cover—no-velocity paper off. In fact, both the paper feed and printing mechanisms for clearing and clearing with a Q-Tip and alcohol.

way manufacturers don't take this approach as it allows many iterations of the output and of things while giving you the maximum amount of flexibility because you can cut any length of paper you want.

Regardless, the software installed with the Smart Label Printer P80 is called appropriately SLIP P80 and contains an enhanced version of the SLIP package that comes with the EZ30. Though essentially the same software, there are a few more options with this P80 version because the machine itself allows

you that much wider variety of label sizes. The interface is as intuitive as any other Windows application I've used: just load and make sure. Instead of the wide usage of software you're going to have to spend some time with the manual before completely mastering all of what SLIP P80 can do—generate label sheets and making hard copies, PORTNET codes, graphics, etc.

Back at the hardware end of things, the Smart Label Printer P80 has a slot compact footprint at about 14.5x19 in. (14.5x19 in.)

It's not, like the others, but a nice straight paper path that ought to eliminate any label-binding jams. It's actually not happening, however, as the machine gets just plain dirty from dusting the best cover—no-velocity paper off. In fact, both the paper feed and printing mechanisms for clearing and clearing with a Q-Tip and alcohol.

This is a very capable and attractive machine at a relatively reasonable price.



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## HARDWARE

## Kurey, H. 2015.

Estimated street price: \$210



Kay's entry into this particular market is the sleek and handy K110, which, like the others, is capable of printing on a variety of label sizes up to 5.3 cm (2.1 in) by 1.1 wide. The

But the others, the labels are proprietary so, in this case, you're looking at a cluster between 3.39x10<sup>-14</sup> cm (0.135x10<sup>-14</sup> m) stopping labels, 2.81x10<sup>-14</sup> cm (0.112x10<sup>-14</sup> m) standard labels and 5.39x10<sup>-15</sup> cm (0.215x10<sup>-15</sup> m) 1-cylinder labels.

In the box you get the labeling machine, the driver and software disks, connecting cable and, as usual, a roll of labels—the shipping slip in this case. Roy, like all in with just about everyone else, is on kicking the plug directly once the software is there's no hesitating here on their side.

Agile, small and quiet, Krey's machine has very little to separate it from the others both in terms of design and ability. However, Krey has come up with its own variant of anti-worm called On-Line Labeler that comes in both DOS and Windows versions. It lets you do all the tasks that the others do, though it runs at the Macintosh's standard (terrible) speed. This one's slightly more intuitive than the others. Currently, however, the biggest kink is an inability to download programs from On-Line Labeler itself. Krey is currently devising

ing a Windows 9x driver that will allow you to print labels from your labelings as any other type of database but that is not expected until this year. Employed purchasers will be able to get a free update when it becomes available.

Some of the advanced features now include automatic formats for the international mailing systems—United States, Canada, Australia, United Kingdom and continental Europe—plus separately mail-

terminal graphics and image capture and input abilities. Of course, POSTNET and other forms of bar codes are also available.

Opening the cross does not expose the joint head so drawing will quite literally involve the witness laying out, if somewhat to open up the male taking. They don't, however, provide illustrations in the manual to show to do this, so I guess that means they don't intend it to be done.

40) In all, the Tree is covered a distance of

post level-cooking needs at any of the other choices, operating as well as any of the others but making the pattern of dropping a sophisticated label at least slightly broader. However, I would be somewhat concerned about the fact that the warranty is only 10 days, as that hardly seems an adequate amount of time to dissuade any business' frills—unless you run it continuously during that period in some one of the water links in the operation chain. □

## LABEL MAKER SURVEY

	Colibri	Sealife 1220	Sealife Pro	Key
Print method	direct thermal	direct thermal	direct thermal	direct thermal
Dwelling time (per inch)	203 ms	135/140 µs	200 µs	300 µs
Resolution	300 dpi (inkjet)	300 dpi	300 dpi	300 dpi
Max. print speed	1 in/sec	11 in/sec (300 dpi)	8 in/sec	5 in/sec (300 dpi)
Max. print width	36. Paper 8.4 in (2.05 x 5)	2.8 in (7.1 x 4.7)	8.5 in (2.16 m)	3.7 in (9.35 x 1)
Max. paper handling	Rolls (4 in, 204 in)	13 in cut, 10 in roll	26 in cut of continuous	220 cut of continuous
	300 cut of roll	(400 in)	(400 in)	(200 in)
	(3.30 in)			
Print head life	27 cut (100 in) of paper	1 yr	1 yr	100 days
Memory	1 yr (continuous)	1 yr	1 yr	100 days
	60 days (print head)	1 yr	1 yr	100 days
	(420, 30,000 A2)	1 yr	1 yr	100 days
Estimated direct print	0.055 in/sec	0.055 in/sec	0.055 in/sec	0.055 in/sec
Available for				
Connect	Colibri Corporation 800 West P. Avenue Ave Broomfield, CO 80000-0000 Tel: 303-461-0700	SEI Software Instruments Inc. 1130 Ringwood Ct. San Jose, CA 95131 Tel: 408-438-0800	SEI Software Instruments Inc. 1130 Ringwood Ct. San Jose, CA 95131 Tel: 408-438-0800	Key Inc. P.O. Box 51000 Broomfield, CO 80005-0100 Tel: 303-470-0000

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The AWE TVGene provides an additional TV in your children's room, just attach it to their computer monitor and their video game plays will plug right in. No longer will you have to put up with video game wars, control issues, and cordage in your living room. The AWE TVGene is also a must in college dorm rooms, which means a student's convenience.

After TiCene is perfect for converting a desktop computer into a remote TV that has an alarm function built in. The sleep function allows you to program the After TiCene to turn off automatically after 30, 60, 90 or 120 minutes. You can fall asleep to your favorite programs and not bother to turn off the TV when you go to bed at night.

Das Modell beschreibt nicht nur das Verhalten, sondern auch die Entwicklung der Persönlichkeit. Die Persönlichkeit wird als ein dynamisches System betrachtet, das sich in der Zeit verändert. Die Entwicklung der Persönlichkeit wird als ein Prozess betrachtet, der von verschiedenen Faktoren beeinflusst wird. Die Entwicklung der Persönlichkeit wird als ein Prozess betrachtet, der von verschiedenen Faktoren beeinflusst wird.

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## Entry-level Pentiums

Continued from page 79

## The hard drive

Relative to disks and RAM, information stored on the hard drive is accessed very slowly. The hard drive permanently stores all the applications and files you use and create. Because its operation requires a great deal of mechanical movement, it takes a long time for the hard drive to read and write. However, hard drives are becoming more efficient all the time. The speed of a hard drive is measured in milliseconds (how long it takes to retrieve 1 KB) for the transfer rate. High-end hard drives use SCSI connections whereas the ones found in most homes are usually of the IDE type.

Hard drives these days can store upwards of 4 GB of data, at prices still within most users' reach. For the average user, a 1.44 GB hard drive should suffice, but applications are continually growing. Before you know it, your 1.44 GB hard drive will have all the applications. When shopping for a hard drive, look for one that has an average transfer rate and high data transfer rates (upwards of 3 MB/KB/sec) which can be measured using various hard-disk benchmark tests such as Hinton's Iyadot Qbench and Comtest.

## Your view on the world

No computer is complete without a monitor. Yet it is common for systems to be sold without one. While this may be convenient, it is not necessarily bad if you are going to spend a little extra cash anyway. It should be on the monitor. Compared to other components, your monitor will last and make its value the longest. While a 14-inch monitor is adequate for almost any task, operating multiple documents will be more than a little frustrating. Whatever the size of the monitor you choose, make sure it has a refresh rate of at least 75 Hz. In whatever computer you'll be using the monitor, a monitor with a lower rate can easily cause eye strain and headaches. When choosing a monitor, use a 15-inch model if you can afford it. Although the extra inch may not seem like much, once you've one had with a larger model, you'll never want to go back.

## Multimedia

One component that has catapulted into computerdom over the past year is the hard CD-ROM drive. We're sure that its sales growth will be around this time last year in today's CD and even 3D audio.

For the higher performance CD-ROM drive, you'll definitely have to pay a bit more, but if you use multimedia software such as encyclopedias or CD-based game programs, you'll certainly appreciate the added CD access to an ever-growing system, you should expect all its drives, are CD-ROMs they require by software, but because it's almost impossible to find a store that will sell anything slower. Keep in mind that it is not rare for a software package to require anything faster than a 4x drive, but that doesn't mean that you won't benefit from a faster model.

The final three components you'll want to consider are your sound and video cards. Your video card is in charge of placing information on the screen. The faster the video card can process the information, the faster everything will move because you won't find yourself waiting for things to be redrawn for a 1/4 of a frame on the video card,

because this will allow you high color displays and higher resolutions. And it is worth noting that you know will be supported by popular software and software operating system you will be moving. Some new video cards will take 3D acceleration, definitely an asset for many of today's games.

When it comes to sound, most people think that they'll save a few bucks by buying a 100 "16-bit" card. What they're probably buying themselves in for is a performance goal that's unrealistic. Your sound card is only in good luck the software that uses it. Always check with several software titles to see if they support the particular sound card you're considering. The same goes for the operating system. Although there are several cards on the market that are "compatible," they will not match the size of use and quality that you'll get from buying a card that is fully supported by your programs. Don't waste the anything less than a 16-bit card, as this will let you play and record CD-quality sounds in 16-bit stereo.

## Not ready

Before 1990 and video cards, the only other peripheral you may find in an introductory system is a modem. Communicating with other systems has become a central focus in contemporary computing. Many people are expecting that this is a general system because they want to connect more effectively in the Internet or in such. If a system is to be up to the task, it should be operating at at least 14.4Kbps. At this speed you can get beyond basic email, but will find downloading files and moving files very tedious. In reality, the advantages of online resources, systems should include a 28.8Kbps modem. They're not supporting and installing a modem is one of the simplest things you can do without taking your modem in with you.

## Current computer

Beyond the basic hardware configuration, there are a number of "add" items you may want to consider. People buying an introductory system are probably not very technically literate. It will be tempting for sales people to make advantage of this situation. A common ploy used by an astute computer salesperson is to tell you that your system has several needs before digging the system. Often they will make computer changes in place. During these previous needs the cost for components drops and they pocket the difference. Ask them exactly where you will receive the system and to get a guarantee. Don't forget! Give them the full amount until you receive the system.

Before buying items you don't need, research. Even if you're buying a brand name system, it is advisable to look up on the case they are selling through. There are several ways to check up on a company. The easiest is to ask a friend. Ask your friends and local computer stores for recommendations. Call up the company's service line and compare the response time to their claim line. There are a number of online resources you can look at online. If you have access to the Internet—through a friend, for example—check out newsgroups devoted to comparing to your area. These newsgroups will have lots of information about people's experiences with various items and companies.

If you are satisfied with comparing, make sure you buy from a company that's good when they suggest, since you may not notice it fully until after the battle is up.

Continued on page 78



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Processor	Pentium 550 MHz	Pentium 600 MHz	Pentium 650 MHz	Pentium 700 MHz	Pentium 750 MHz	Pentium 800 MHz	Pentium 850 MHz	Pentium 900 MHz	Pentium 950 MHz	Pentium 1,000 MHz	Pentium 1,050 MHz
Memory	32 MB	32 MB	32 MB	32 MB	32 MB	32 MB	32 MB	32 MB	32 MB	32 MB	32 MB
Display	1024x768	1024x768	1024x768	1024x768	1024x768	1024x768	1024x768	1024x768	1024x768	1024x768	1024x768
Audio	16-bit	16-bit	16-bit	16-bit	16-bit	16-bit	16-bit	16-bit	16-bit	16-bit	16-bit
Mouse	16-bit	16-bit	16-bit	16-bit	16-bit	16-bit	16-bit	16-bit	16-bit	16-bit	16-bit
Keyboard	16-bit	16-bit	16-bit	16-bit	16-bit	16-bit	16-bit	16-bit	16-bit	16-bit	16-bit
Sound card	16-bit	16-bit	16-bit	16-bit	16-bit	16-bit	16-bit	16-bit	16-bit	16-bit	16-bit
Hard drive	10 GB	10 GB	10 GB	10 GB	10 GB	10 GB	10 GB	10 GB	10 GB	10 GB	10 GB
CD-ROM drive	1x	1x	1x	1x	1x	1x	1x	1x	1x	1x	1x
Software	MS Office 98	MS Office 98	MS Office 98	MS Office 98	MS Office 98	MS Office 98	MS Office 98	MS Office 98	MS Office 98	MS Office 98	MS Office 98
System unit	16.1" CRT	16.1" CRT	16.1" CRT	16.1" CRT	16.1" CRT	16.1" CRT	16.1" CRT	16.1" CRT	16.1" CRT	16.1" CRT	16.1" CRT
Operating system	Windows 95	Windows 95	Windows 95	Windows 95	Windows 95	Windows 95	Windows 95	Windows 95	Windows 95	Windows 95	Windows 95
Other	16.1" CRT	16.1" CRT	16.1" CRT	16.1" CRT	16.1" CRT	16.1" CRT	16.1" CRT	16.1" CRT	16.1" CRT	16.1" CRT	16.1" CRT
Price	\$1,199	\$1,199	\$1,199	\$1,199	\$1,199	\$1,199	\$1,199	\$1,199	\$1,199	\$1,199	\$1,199
Warranty	3 years	3 years	3 years	3 years	3 years	3 years	3 years	3 years	3 years	3 years	3 years
Comments	MS Office 98	MS Office 98	MS Office 98	MS Office 98	MS Office 98	MS Office 98	MS Office 98	MS Office 98	MS Office 98	MS Office 98	MS Office 98
Software	MS Office 98	MS Office 98	MS Office 98	MS Office 98	MS Office 98	MS Office 98	MS Office 98	MS Office 98	MS Office 98	MS Office 98	MS Office 98
System unit	16.1" CRT	16.1" CRT	16.1" CRT	16.1" CRT	16.1" CRT	16.1" CRT	16.1" CRT	16.1" CRT	16.1" CRT	16.1" CRT	16.1" CRT
Operating system	Windows 95	Windows 95	Windows 95	Windows 95	Windows 95	Windows 95	Windows 95	Windows 95	Windows 95	Windows 95	Windows 95
Other	16.1" CRT	16.1" CRT	16.1" CRT	16.1" CRT	16.1" CRT	16.1" CRT	16.1" CRT	16.1" CRT	16.1" CRT	16.1" CRT	16.1" CRT

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**Voice on  
PC:**

### The talk continues

DOI: 10.1002/for

**I**t seems that voice-command technology has taken hold in homes—and has taken hold forever. As early as 1988, British telephone sales were selected for information sales showing PCs with a built-in microphone and natural speech-command system from a company later known as *Acoustic*.

In the ads, a naive person with a silly voice would stand up to the microphone and simply command his voice command-enabled laptop computer to "Show me the ads again!" Naturally a set of impressive numbers would appear on the screen. The commercial so impressed one viewer that at a trade show shortly after the ad campaign ended, he was even hearing like as he pulled halfway at one of the computers on the display stand, "Show me the f---ing ads again!"

It has all been downhill from there, as historical has proved to be "World War II" (see the next 10 years, [www.ww2.gov](http://www.ww2.gov)).

technology has developed to the point where it is actually unrealistic to think about "water stubbling" applications to redesign a series of related "stupid and" commands. So that's good by which most new software offerings from both IBM and Microsoft have done to make sure to find the Internet more by having components that a programmer.

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IBM has long been a leader of voice-recognition technology and has funded research into this area for many years. In fact, it was so bullish about this technology that it was included as part of the latest version of IBM OS/2 Warp (version 4) when it was released late last year.

By Blue is not ignoring the mass market for speech recognition. However, and this is the key, it has developed a product aimed at users of the Microsoft Windows 95 OS. Internet naming on Microsoft Windows 95. Made available in some form in mid-December on the Web Web site is called VoiceType Connection 95 Edition and promises to let people navigate the Internet by voice.

The idea is that with VoiceType Connective PB Edition, people will be able to use their voice to control Netscape Navigator 3.0 or 3.0i to access Web sites without spelling or typing an e-mail address, account name, URL, etc. IBM suggests that this will also seem to simply ask the computer to go to sites on the Internet and move around within it by talking to the computer. Previously, IBM demonstrated this technology on OS/2 and Navigator for OS/2—but your voice is still not doing it.

Using what IBM calls its "Universal speech" technology, it says people will actually be able to surf by speaking into a box of words in one given language, thereby creating voice-enabled shortcuts to their favorite Web sites. IBM further promises that, although Netscape Navigator users will get a few changes in the interface, they shouldn't notice any significant differences between IBM's version and Netscape's. IBM also says that people who use ViewType Connection Pro Edition will also get the benefit of direct shortcuts into Netscape's core Web pages if they add any of IBM's additional products to the recently introduced ViewType 3.0.

Of course the latest is exactly what it is all about: **VoiceType Connection** NS Edition is really aimed at business as there's more than a very high-end set of NS Edition's voice recognition products and get people to believe that the technology actually does work. The other product that this level solution is designed to show off is the **NS Developer's Toolkit**, which was used to create **VoiceType Connection** NS Edition. The NS app **VoiceType Connection** uses something called **Direct Core Invention Technology (DCIT)** to integrate the **VoiceType** speech-recognition technology with third-party software applications to make them work better.

IBM has other such products in development and pledges that each future edition will be fully compatible with other VoicePro Connection editions, as well as

with the column VectorType Identity of group name.

The company says the "newType" Generation III Edition works with Novageo Navigator 3.0 CD-ROM running on "most Pentium computers," which are equipped with a recommended microprocessor and an industry-standard sound-card (which according to IBM, include either those that use Creative's Sound Blaster, or IBM's Microchannel processor). To use it, you need a 386/486 Pentium-compatible PC running Windows 3.1 with 1 MB additional hard-disk space, a level 2 cache of 512KB, and a minimum of 5 MB of RAM above other IBM requirements.

The beta version of WileyType Conversion MII Edition is currently available as it is downloaded from the Internet (<http://www.wiley.com/go/wileytype/ConversionMII>).

**Publication information: List price: \$19.95; paperback: \$14.95**

MSL, however, is not the only one offering a way to use your technology to suit the Net. Microsoft's Information Systems Group (ISG) put its hat in the Web speech-command ring last fall, just when it showed off its IM (INTERNET INFORMATION) based system at the Consumer Fall trade show in Las Vegas.

The demonstration showed how users could surf the Web by giving verbal commands to a Freeway system configured with the graphics and loaded with speech-recognition software from Lucina. Another Microsoft dream.

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Unitra 420C27	P21A/12000	12000 12000	12000 12000	12000 12000	12000 12000
Unitra 420C27	P21A/12000	12000 12000	12000 12000	12000 12000	12000 12000
Unitra 420C27	P21A/12000	12000 12000	12000 12000	12000 12000	12000 12000
Unitra 420C27	P21A/12000	12000 12000	12000 12000	12000 12000	12000 12000
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100MHz Pentium III	100MHz Pentium III	\$1400	133MHz Pentium III	133MHz Pentium III	\$1000	180MHz Pentium III	180MHz Pentium III	\$3500	133MHz Pentium III	133MHz Pentium III	\$2198
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100MHz Pentium III	100MHz Pentium III	\$1000	133MHz Pentium III	133MHz Pentium III	\$1400	180MHz Pentium III	180MHz Pentium III	\$2500	133MHz Pentium III	133MHz Pentium III	\$1600
100MHz Pentium III	100MHz Pentium III	\$1400	133MHz Pentium III	133MHz Pentium III	\$1000	180MHz Pentium III	180MHz Pentium III	\$3500	133MHz Pentium III	133MHz Pentium III	\$2198
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100MHz Pentium III	100MHz Pentium III	\$1400	133MHz Pentium III	133MHz Pentium III	\$1000	180MHz Pentium III	180MHz Pentium III	\$3500	133MHz Pentium III	133MHz Pentium III	\$2198
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### Voice on PC

Continued from page 42

offer a connection to an Internet server provider and navigate the Web to various sites, including ones using software that supports voice streaming over the Web.

### Conclusion

Given the history of this technology, Web-mailing by speech recognition technology—or

voice-controlled technology of any sort—is probably not "the next big thing." But it does seem that the capabilities of this technology are now finally in sync with user online goals.

That could mean some interesting opportunities—particularly in developing solutions for those who need to do Web navigation, but are unable or unwilling to use a keyboard to do it. □



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# Weaving your own Web site: Part XIX

## Style sheets: Part II

BY BRITH SCHENCKEL-ROBERTS

In the last article (EUP March 1997) in this series, we looked at how cascading style sheets (CSS) elements could be incorporated into a Web page. Today, other things are possible under the CSS scheme, including the ability to implement formatting within specific sections of a page (like a separate page containing marketing link forwarding information) or to group a number of style sheets for marketing information together.

### Colors and format

There are instances when you may want to override the existing CSS formatting scheme within a given Web page. Style sheet divisions are contained inside the <div> (division) tag, which allows a Web designer to set the rules for the entire <div> and its contents. The following hypertext markup language (HTML) example shows how the <div> tag can be used to specify style sheet elements for a section of a Web page:

This text is displayed using the default color attributes.

```
<div style="font-size: 10pt; color: blue">
```

This text is displayed everything that it encloses within a Web page.

```
</div>
```

This text is displayed in 10 point font at 100% resolution. (The color "green" is the default.)

```
<div style="color: blue">
```

This text appears after the end </div> tag, returning it to the default display characteristics.

Note how the <div> tag is used to set display characteristics for the text elements and how it can be incorporated directly using an inline style sheet element (e.g., where the display font is changed to 12 point green).

Up until this point in the series, we have only looked at one type of property—color—which can be used within a style sheet. But in the last HTML example code shown, it is possible to combine several different elements within a single style sheet rule. There are over 30 different properties specified by the official CSS specifications (which can be found at the World Wide Web Consortium's Style Sheet lists page at <http://www.w3.org/Style/Style/StyleSheet.html>), but most have not been recently recognized within Microsoft Internet Explorer.

### Spanning formats

There are occasions when you may want to override a style within a row or two of text. To do this, use the <span> tag, which is designed to extend and change the display characteristics of text when formatting characteristics have been defined elsewhere. The following code displays an example of the <span> tag in action:

```
<div style="color: blue">
```

```
<span style="color: red">
```

```
</span>
```

```
</div>
```

The text "The end" appears in red, the rest is blue.

Formatting with separate style sheets. We have now seen style sheet information can be embedded into the

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border of a Web page used as an outline to denote which is a specific HTML tag and which is a division on a Web page. A third option is possible: specifying a separate Web page that contains nesting but style sheet information. This is very convenient if you want to apply a style to various tags within a Web site. You can create as many different style sheet pages as you need, to set different styles to different Web pages. To do this, simply create a text file that contains nothing but style sheet information. To reference this file, use the <LINK> tag within the page you want formatted, as in the following example:

```
<HEAD>
<LINK REL="stylesheet" HREF="
"Style/Colors.asp" style="color: #0000FF">
```

```
</HEAD>
```

In theory, it is possible to colour or format different style sheets within a single Web page, but this feature is not yet supported within Internet Explorer 3.0.

#### Grouping style sheet elements and classes

While it is possible to specify individual style sheets for each and every individual element on a Web page, it is useful to name ones to group elements that share the same character traits together. This is possible under the CSS specifications, which allows the HTML author to assign the same formatting to multiple tags. For example, the following HTML code sets the display class for a number of headers.

```
<H1 class="Caption" font-weight: bold font-family: "Geneva" color:blue>
<H2 class="Caption" font-weight: bold font-family: "Geneva" color:blue>
<H3 class="Caption" font-weight: bold font-family: "Geneva" color:blue>
```

All of these to delineate the same display elements. They can all be combined into the following statement:

```
<H1 <H2 <H3 class="Caption" font-weight: bold font-family: "Geneva" color:blue>
```

A space is all that is required to string together tags that share the same display elements.

It is also desirable to name ones to specify several different variations for a single HTML

tag. Tags can be grouped into different classes, which specify different display characteristics which specified within the code. The following HTML code displays four writing from different classes of the paragraph tag can be specified and used within a Web page to change the color and font of the text that follows it.

```
<PMA>
<MA>
<TMA>
Font-family: serif font: Times
Color: color: green, font-weight: bold, text-align:
center
<PMB>
```

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# A kind look at Microsoft

Author lauds employment practices  
but skins over gaffs and questionable marketing

BY BRITH SCHENCIL-ROBERTS

**The Microsoft Way: The Real Story of How the Company Became No. 1 in Computers**

Author Kenneth Jones  
Publisher Addison-Wesley  
Price \$24  
ISBN 0-201-40941-0  
Available 218 pages, 1998

The Microsoft Way is a book that purports to be the real story about the success of Microsoft. The author of this costly mythological business fable, Kenneth Jones, was the first business journalist to have access—and more than three years of uninterrupted access to that—to the company's activities. When someone is an interesting person at a company that has successfully become the dominant force in the computer industry, it remains curious (perhaps on the grounds and people at work behind the scenes, and not occasionally on how to create and maintain a computer software company) that by identifying on the positive aspects of the firm, the book presents a rather one-sided view of Microsoft.

Any book about Microsoft written consistently by Microsoft is the reader's least worst way company, and it is almost at least that (1997's follow-up, Microsoft is the focus of continued criticism from inside and outside the computer industry; its programs on ethics reflected its recent pay-downs to outside donors, and chairman Bill Gates is regularly chastised on the Internet).

Some, however, make a compelling argument that Microsoft's success does not lie in predatory or monopolistic marketing practices, but in its rigorous and linking and creating intelligent employees acting quickly on bright ideas, and listening to feedback from the marketplace. Since correctly points out that the initial success of the firm was a result of a state in that state to shared business planning. When IBM launched the PC line in the early 1980s, while IBM was the world's largest computer manufacturer, Microsoft was a success.

IBM-PC and the release of such successful programs as Word and Excel carried the firm and the early 1990s. But if Microsoft's success prior to 1990 could be explained at least partly by luck, Jones leaves no doubt that in no one else that didn't do anything but luck. Microsoft made a deliberate choice to be the largest person that twenty people who had had the most success or were the most capable for the task. But people who were consistently intelligent and who had vision. Microsoft has a number of board members and employees who are drawn directly from the upper echelons of academia, sometimes with little direct experience of the software industry.

There are again those people have provided Microsoft with the drive to succeed within the ability to adapt to the ever-changing software industry. Microsoft largely treats employees

well, and software engineers in particular are provided with a congenial and employee environment as possible when an employee

where employees gladly work hard and spend on when they receive bonuses.

These examples have helped the company grow and transform itself again and again. After 1995, Microsoft changed from selling a rather clumsy PC operating system to becoming a leading publisher of CD-ROMs. One of the most revealing aspects of this book is Jones's look at the long and often difficult battle of Windows, now the world's best-selling operating system.

Gates realized the potential of CD-ROM technology years before it became a truly viable market software medium. It was developed the development of CD-ROMs within the firm, often meeting with opposition from his board of directors. One thing that is made clear in the book is that Chairman Bill does not have the final say in the office, as often perceived as being. In fact, Gates was once involved in the Microsoft's board. However, a basic understanding of the marketplace and a basic understanding of how CD-ROM-based operating would change the traditional computer industry made Microsoft's success inevitable. Inevitable in those at Microsoft but not in the computer industry in some details in his book.

While the book is often open to its coverage of Microsoft, and even at a necessary sensitive to the unfair criticism often leveled at the firm, the book does not only a company look at the firm's success. A thin chapter is devoted to Microsoft's history to demonstrate the financial software market. Microsoft's dual opposition to this battle (first—the maker of Quattro—4 gives his prize for its marketing success and might not be a success story).

The book also manages to skip over some of Microsoft's more questionable marketing ploys, even the use of offering free working copies of MS-Word from its Web site to compete against similar. And, while the book only gives a passing mention to the battle between Netscape and Microsoft for dominance of the World Wide Web.

While Jones makes his case that the most demanding changes that have been laid against Microsoft by its industry rivals are largely unconvincing, this reviewer does not recommend buying this book to be lost without the subject. While the strength of the book is revealing, the conclusion lead this reviewer to believe that it will not be seen as the definitive work about Microsoft. However, what it does lead is that world at its latest of knowing what Microsoft does, well than of getting a distorted view of an "evil empire." □

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Other well-known than any other, has allowed the personal computer to become a fixture of modern professional image making. That tool is Adobe Photoshop. It has been around for a long time, and it's still going strong. For advertising and publishing, a large percentage have already been introduced by computer.

It's not to say a computer cover where some computer information can be obtained. Many images have obviously been placed together from several separate images, and heavily processed with various, false, deep shadows, and other effects. Until the last few years, no, computer image processing at the professional level was much more rare, since it was very expensive, requiring high-end computer workstations that cost over tens of thousands of dollars, and specialized, proprietary software.

However, because of Photoshop, and the drop in price of high-powered Mac and PC

systems, the ability to produce high resolution, professional digital imaging is now within the reach of just about any professional or student. This position, however, then became one of choice, or at least technical skill—how can anyone learn how to use a fairly vast and tricky software program?

Well, millions of books of position is one pretty good way. A respectable tutorial, however, would still require serious thought and practice, but fewer hours of that. And, with Photoshop 4 Bible as your teacher.

A part of the IDG Bible series, this book is the companion to The Internet Bible, The PC Upgrade and Repair Bible, to name a few. It is intended to be the definitive word on a particular computer subject. Of course, given the rate of change in the computer field, frequent revised editions are necessary—all the better for a publisher's bottom line, as Microsoft has proven.

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### Microsoft® Press books are available at the following locations:

Author: Dale McCallum, Inventor to Mac Technology  
Publisher: IDG Books  
Price: \$69.95  
ISBN: 0-1645-405-X  
Software: 844 pages, CD-ROM included



The MacWorld Photoshop 4 Bible is made necessary by the release of the latest version of Adobe Photoshop, which contains many different features from its preceding versions. The MacWorld 4 Bible is aimed at showing Photoshop capabilities by showing how to use particular tools. It literally includes dozens of examples, each consisting of a visual result is shown and described. Very quickly, the reader practicing the examples on his or her computer gets a comprehensive working knowledge of Photoshop.

Author Dale McCallum assures that the reader has a registered copy of the program, and as Adobe Photoshop manual as he does, as it's to appreciate Adobe's documentation (which is among the best of graphic software manuals). It just doesn't have the depth of visual result examples and explanations of McCallum's Bible.

Nonetheless, McCallum does not let the reader with a lot of old chapters in Part I on his book, laying out the essentials of Photoshop and how to use it, and describing helpful shortcuts and scripts that make using it much more productive. In fact, it, the book covers most of the basics, including much of the technical background of working with computer graphics, color management, the integrated user interface, printing, fonts, resolution and color management.

In Part II, the real strengths of the author's approach becomes apparent as, for example, after example for shows how to print and process digital images. In Part III through VII, over 400 illustrations of digital image book images, the reader learns hundreds of techniques and sees the results. The final chapters, Part VIII, covers creating images with the third image tool. The book closes up with a series of appendices, including some illustrations help and information on how to use the software on the CD-ROM that is included with the book.

The MacWorld Photoshop 4 Bible was the only one of these "I don't know what" books where an almost every page there was something new, delightful, yes.

Continued on page 34



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## New Photoshop Bible

Continued from page 96

oriented in a way that encourages the reader to try more on his or her own.

For most of the Windows version of Photoshop 4, I'm not sure that there are any real problems deriving at home with this book. I tried out many of its examples on a Pentium-based system running Windows 95 and the 32-bit Windows version of Photoshop 4, and they worked fine. It should be noted though, that most professional Photoshop users are still in the Apple Mac camp.

Criticism? Well, not much of what there is in this book takes a long time, but I would take issue with something that is not in the book. And that is the almost complete absence of hard-copy art created on the computer with a drawing tablet or mouse, as well as scanned versions of already exist-

ing web additional media such as pencil or watercolor. With the exception of a single file selection, and one discussion of a mask, there's nothing a graphics tablet by the author "year-ago" all the other "year-ago" images in this book are scanned photos.

I have to confess a personal bias against our current practice for creating illustrations with computer-generated photographs. Of images manipulated by Photoshop, we see less and less of the artist's hand in the finished work, and I think we are poorer for it. I'd like to see more great art coming from artists using computers, rather than artists merely searching up images and stock images.

Get more from introducing my bias, I found this to be a terrific book. ☐

Editor: CIO, 100 Bay Ridge

Web site: <http://www.creative.com>

## Weaving your own web site

Continued from page 89

Expect serious web page development learning CIO to be studied until it is incorporated within Netscape Navigator. It is an ever-changing sign that at the time of writing, Netscape has released a "pre-release" beta of its browser that is capable of dealing with cascading style sheets, though it is unclear as yet as to the extent to which it conforms to the CSS specification used within Internet Explorer, or recommended as an official standard by the World Wide Web Consortium. Netscape had previously announced plans for the ability to incor-

porate JavaScript within style sheets, cascading style sheets to be dynamically updated on user input. Mayed indeed for most.

And in the meantime, people who want to design Web pages that are advanced for Internet Explorer users can begin experimenting with style sheets in version 3.2.

Both Netscape/Netscape welcome any comments, suggestions or HTML tips and tricks you may have. You can email them to [html@netscape.com](mailto:html@netscape.com). The Advanced HTML Companion (ISBN 0-13-000000-0) is available in bookstores. Printed articles in this series can be found at The Computer News web site at [cnn.com](http://cnn.com).

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# Banking at home

Continued from page A2

**Royal Direct PC Banking**  
**Royal Direct Internet Banking**  
 From Royal Bank  
 1-800-468-26  
 web site: [www.royalbank.com](http://www.royalbank.com)

The Royal Bank has a renowned online banking without error. In place to be prepared for every possibility. "Our strategy from the beginning has been to develop world-class products to reach emerging delivery channels," says Jim Ragan, executive vice-president for the bank's personal financial services.

Royal Bank's services include: its electronic Web page with content of information, Internet Banking (Royal Direct Internet Banking), PC banking (Royal Direct PC Banking), and, like pretty much everybody, e-banking (Internet Banking). The Web page has a great view of the company's PC banking and the software that comes with the service is excellent.

As mentioned, Royal Bank purchased Managing Your Money and has made it the most computerized bank out of any Canadian personal banking program. The software downloads the bank's records of your transactions and tries to match up entries in your register. If you have not already entered information about a particular debit or deposit you need only select "New" to update your records. If the program finds an entry for 105 on the 15th it will match it Select "OK" to accept, or if the transaction is different, simply scroll until you have found the correct entry and select "Match."

In this way users have a choice between simply keeping a record of their account transactions or actually recording in forms, not before it appears on the bank's records. This is particularly useful if a paper is not practical about ordering the changes you have given them.

The Royal Bank's new Internet banking services are not interchangeable. There are separate services and it is a lot to use on one system, not two. The primary system here is the private network system, both web-based work, but Managing Your Money is best suited to a closed network. It is not a disaster. Of all the systems currently available, Royal Direct PC Banking is the best.

**netbanking**  
 From: Mark (Mark of Montreal)  
 10-000-000-11  
 Web site: [www.netbanking.com](http://www.netbanking.com)

It's nothing like the bank of Montreal gets the "Big to Be Cool" award. In a financial attempt to shed their rich and costly reputation, many of Canada's financial institutions have decided to give themselves a nickname. However, only Mark came up with something really interesting. It also gets the "Best Commercial" award for the commercial showing 100 children in various cry writing signs. The Times They Are A-Changin'.

Mark was the Internet for its online banking. They have a great site part of the larger bank of Montreal site with a tour of the service as well as sign-up information.

It calls the online banking service net banking, which is a bit far from being the game a little too far for the online to a



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Info: **Business** Networking is a local PC trend that world-wide the demand will meet program. Quicken, but not just. To support data to the program is definitely. Personally, when has announced a deal with Intel that will get a greater integration between the online version and Quicken.

There of Quicken it will be able to automatically update their account information in the program from the online Web site by the time you need this. Quicken users and others, customers will be able to transfer account information directly into Quicken. This new version will reduce the need for manual data entry and is a substantial improvement over conventional "file generation" import/export routines that require some knowledge of the automated accounting and other users' formats presented in Quicken.

Inform customers who have Quicken 4 for Windows will be able to activate their online banking features at no extra cost. The plan when the version goes good to great and will bring the information from the Royal Bank/Managing Your Money team. All in all banking seems to be a better and a good service.

#### CT Connect

##### EasyWeb

From Canada Post  
for 800-820-4404

Web site: <http://www.easyweb.com>

Canada Trust: Like the Royal Bank, has a single in both plans. It has an excellent first-class service called EasyWeb and an excellent personal account service is called CT Connect.

The proprietary system is, it is all the other way, able to perform the standard functions of paying bills, transferring money between accounts, reviewing transactions, and checking rates. The Web system also has these abilities and is free for those you have to have an ISP and a Canada Trust account.

What makes EasyWeb great is that, like the Bank of Montreal, Canada Trust has come to an agreement with Intel Corporation as the ODI standard. That means all Quicken Microsoft Money (which also conforms to the new Microsoft/Intel standard) will have a much more accurate way to bring their account information into a financial program.

The Canada Trust Web site is very good and there is a time if you are interested in their online banking. EasyWeb is not available in Quicken because of the problems of the standard and the agreements between Intel, Canada Trust and others we were unable to test the new Web (but if they perform as advertised, Canada Trust and others will be catching up to the truly integrated software/service of the Royal Bank).

#### TD Access: PC

From: Toronto Dominion Bank  
for 888-888-7474

Website: <http://tdaccess.com>

The Toronto Dominion Bank has one of the largest Web sites of any bank in the world. It has continually led the banking community in online services. Its extensive site is written in English, French and Chinese and has many pages on it that you can count (approximately).

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# Infomatch

in excess of 30,000—we understand. So it is no surprise that TD has an online banking service.

However, it is a surprise that the service is on a private network. TD Access PC is a full-service banking for your home PC that includes the expected functions as well as access to Green Line TD's discount discountage service. TD advertises that "the future of banking and investing is having access to your accounts 24 hours a day, anywhere you are. TD Access PC will allow you access to how access to your personal and business accounts, plus access to Green Line Investor Services. Canada's largest discount brokerage. Online real-time quotes, that let you pay bills, transfer money between accounts and view your accounts, including your Visa."

There are no connection fees and the software for TD Access PC is free, available online in the setup. TD states in access order most secure home banking service to North America and this is probably so. However, with the new variety of Internet banks, it looks like TD is considering an Internet price, at which case we suspect these plans will suddenly go silent. TD Access PC is a very good closed network service.

#### Bank of the branch

The field is opening too quickly to say with any authority where the next wave lies. The complexities of various global account variations of similar performance, dual account options and their costs, and numerous dual for pre-define account functions makes an extensive analysis quite impossible. We

believe that many people will select a bank based on their services, but we do not believe that many people will choose banks based on their services. The experience of online banking, however, makes it clear that there is no going back.

This is one of the most logical, useful and convenient functions the home computer has ever offered and we see no limitations that will to take it away from online. This year will undoubtedly be the year that online banking goes further. Where problems exist, the can do in business and profitability, there will be no stopping it. If we were to give our location the road in this case it would have to be the legal issue but no truly integrated service looks for this to change as new standards are adopted. □

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#### Performance

Asus/Intel is all well and good, but what about performance? The PowerBook 1400c is equipped with a powerful PowerPC 601c 8/33 microprocessor running at 107 MHz. Unfortunately, the full potential of this processor is not realized for two reasons: the use of a 32-bit (instead of a 64-bit) data bus and the absence of a Level 2 cache (which is available in the top-of-the-line model). However, if you are the typical card-carrying who using word processing, spreadsheet, and graphics applications along with telecommunications, the 601c offers more than ample horsepower for your computing needs. If you are doing full-screen digital media presentations or real-time applications in the scientific and engineering fields, your needs would be better served by Apple's more mid-range the PowerBook 1400 model.

The 1400c will also come standard with 16 MB RAM (1.5 GB hard drive is optional) or CD-ROM drive (in all but the Apple upgrade to the mechanism), an integrated microphone and an internal modem for wireless AppleLink networking.

#### Expansion and upgrade

The 1400c comes with a plethora of internal and external expansion options. Internal expansion does not require specialized tools and is a cinch due the slide-connectors. To access the guts of the machine you simply pop off the speaker grille and flip the latch-board forward, and there you go with a wealth of

slots into which inserting an option. This gives you easy access to RAM expansion (up to 64 MB) and a variety of modules (for things such as Ethernet networking cards or external video adapter cards).

If you want to pump up performance even further, the 107 MHz 601c is located on a daughtercard that can be upgraded. Street Technicians currently offers a 200 MHz 601c with a 128KB Level-1 cache for major performance gains.

The 1400c also comes with an industry standard PC Card (PCMCIA) slot that can accommodate two Type II/Type III cards or one Type III card. These expansion slots can provide capabilities such as Internet networking, video or wireless communications, storage and much more.

Ready-to-go Plug and Play expansion ports include:

- an ADB port for linking up a daisy chain of up to six devices (such as a mouse or a drawing tablet) to a Macintosh system;
- a SCSI port to which you can link up a daisy chain of six devices (such as a zip file cabinet or scanner);
- a serial port to connect to AppleLink net works and printers;
- a sound input jack;
- and a 16-bit/44 kHz sound-output jack that allows you to plug into your home stereo and third act, glossier CD-quality sound (I had great fun with the Playable software for home-theater enjoyment).

The 1400c has two expansion bays on the front of the unit. The left bay contains a

Continued on page 109

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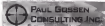
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- 486 Connector (Optional)
- 8.5 CMx8.5 CM Size (Mini-ITX)
- Award / AMI BIOS



Study	Year	Sample Size	Study Design	Intervention	Comparison	Outcome
1	2001	100	Randomized	...	...	...
2	2002	150	Randomized	...	...	...
3	2003	200	Randomized	...	...	...
4	2004	250	Randomized	...	...	...
5	2005	300	Randomized	...	...	...
6	2006	350	Randomized	...	...	...
7	2007	400	Randomized	...	...	...
8	2008	450	Randomized	...	...	...
9	2009	500	Randomized	...	...	...
10	2010	550	Randomized	...	...	...
11	2011	600	Randomized	...	...	...
12	2012	650	Randomized	...	...	...
13	2013	700	Randomized	...	...	...
14	2014	750	Randomized	...	...	...
15	2015	800	Randomized	...	...	...
16	2016	850	Randomized	...	...	...
17	2017	900	Randomized	...	...	...
18	2018	950	Randomized	...	...	...
19	2019	1000	Randomized	...	...	...
20	2020	1050	Randomized	...	...	...

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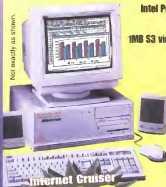
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